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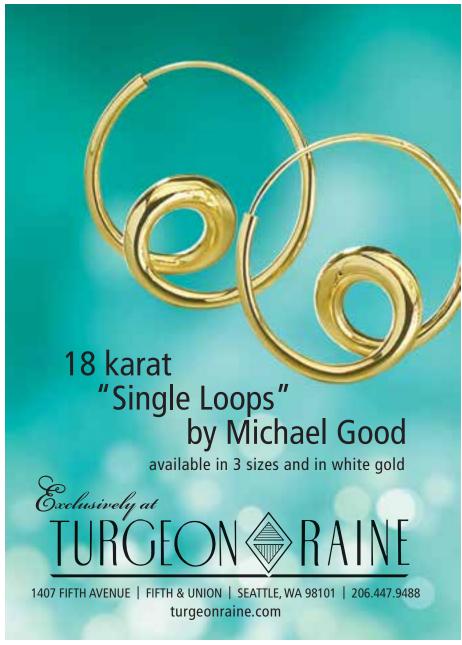
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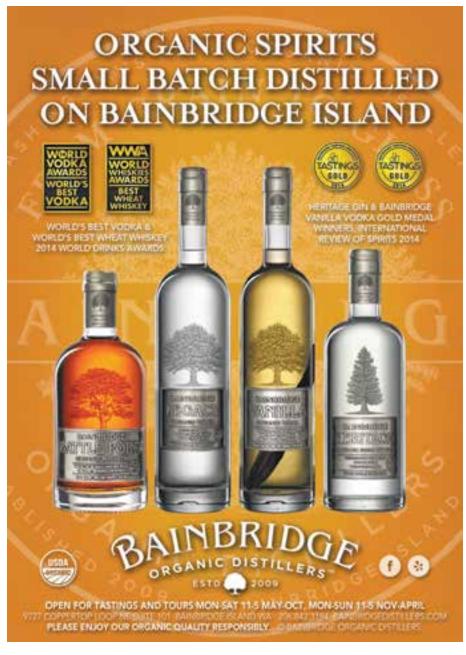














WINTER SALE IN PROGRESS

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the Stranger

Volume 25, Issue Number 19 January 6-12, 2016



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BY SYD BEE sydbee.com

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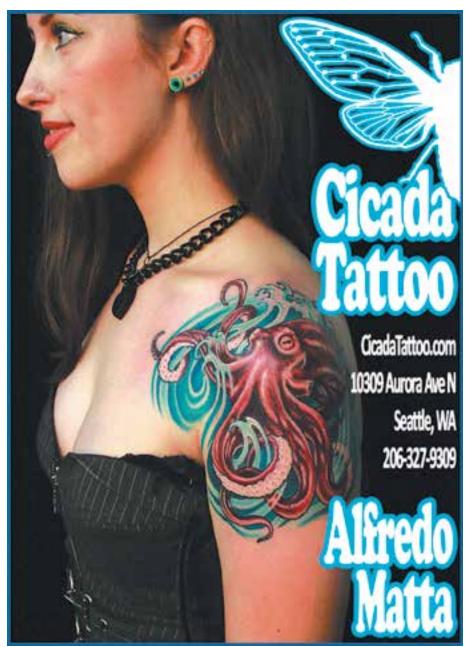
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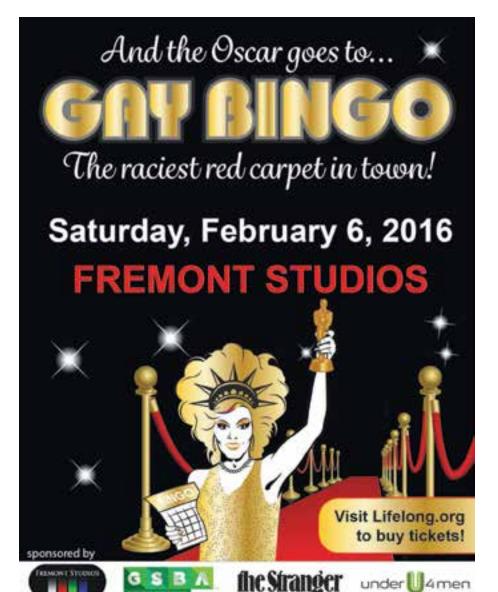


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YOU WON'T FIND ONE OF THESE IN SEATTLE This was taken in San Francisco.

WINTER BREAK IN SAN FRANCISCO

We were in San Francisco, and we saw you down near the Ferry Building: a public toilet! We rubbed our eyes and blinked a few times to be sure, because Seattle doesn't have such things. But you were real! People who probably had no homes, let alone private bathrooms, entered you, did their thing in peace, and left. So did people with nicer threads who just really. needed. to. go.



SHAMING SLUT-SHAMING

To the two losers who thought it was appropriate to heckle a vigil on December 17, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers: You repeatedly asked how much was spent on umbrellas and said that the money could be used for a better purpose. Our umbrellas were a donation to the organization, though many people bring their own. Over the course of seven years, Sex Worker Outreach Project Seattle has spent a total of \$51.87 on replacing broken umbrellas. That \$51.87 has helped to raise visibility of the fact that sex workers are regularly targeted and subject to violence, the fact that every year numerous sex workers are murdered. It's outrageous. isn't it? \$51.87 and a great deal of love remembering and honoring those our community has lost. Your energy would have been better spent joining us.

-Anonymous

right. now. When we returned to Seattle, we refreshed our memory of this city's endless attempts to get itself just one functioning public bathroom somewhere. Yep: still endless. Back in 2003, the City of Seattle bought FIVE supposedly fancy public toilets that it turned out didn't work for shit. The total cost to the city: \$5 million. The amount these things sold for on eBay (ves. really, eBay) when the city finally gave up on them was \$2,500 each. Then last year, a full 12 years after our last failed public toilet attempt, the city promised to install one—just one! public toilet in Pioneer Square by the end of 2015. It was to be modeled on the successful "Portland Loo" design: "small, solar-powered and made from heavy-gauge stainless steel with a graffiti-resistant finish," as the Seattle Times described the thing. Well, the end of 2015 has come and gone, and still no public toilet in Pioneer Square. Gary Johnson at the Seattle Department of Planning and Development told the Times in May of 2015 that his department's goal was to make our loo appear "ASAP." So The Stranger contacted Johnson and asked what's up. He sent a cryptic answer that didn't explain the failure of our loo to appear on time. But he did say there are now loo "exploration committees" in Ballard and the University District. As for Pioneer Square and its "piss problem"? Johnson told us that "a privately funded initiative has emerged to create a kiosk with food service and restrooms in Occidental Square Park." He did not elaborate. Meanwhile, people still have to piss.

WINTER BREAK ON ALASKA AIRLINES

On Christmas day, you, a gentleman with a kind, rosy-cheeked face, a full white beard, a prodigious belly, a red flannel shirt, and gold-rimmed glasses, were seated on an Alaska Airlines flight to Colorado Springs. During the flight, which had been delayed for four hours (including one hellish hour spent sitting on the tarmac), a young father let his toddler loose to walk up and down the aisle. When the child passed your row, she stopped, pointed directly at you, and bellowed, "Ho ho ho!" If you noticed (and it's hard to imagine you didn't), you made **Guest Editorial**

I Don't Know What You're **Talking About: The Coachella Lineup Looks Great!**

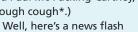
by BB-8

Dear whiny, liberal, 45-year-old fun police:

Why don't you get off my back and learn that there's more to life than bitching about how great it was when you were young and in charge of the world? Because guess what: You're not and

you're not.

Let me see if I have this straight: You're crying into your artisanal, locally sourced, handstitched crying towels because Guns N' Roses are headlining Coachella, and reunions are bad, and Coachella is supposed to have only cool bands no one has heard of. (Yeah, like Prince and Kanye and Radiohead and Paul Mc-Fucking-Cartney *cough cough*.)



from your favorite cute little orange droid: SOME OF US WEREN'T AROUND TO SEE GN'R THE FIRST TIME AROUND AND WOULDN'T MIND A CHANCE TO HEAR "PARADISE GODDAMN CITY" THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE HEARD—LIVE AND LOUD. Jesus Christ, it's like if it wasn't made specifically for you, you can't stand the thought of anyone else enjoying it. I hate to be the one to give you a history lesson, but you know who else used to think like that? I'll give you a hint: He wore a black mask and his name rhymed with Garth Nader. 'Nuff said.

Anyway, all I'm really trying to say is this: Lighten up. It's Axl and Slash, together again! And anyway, liking things is cool again. Maybe you should give it a try for a change and get off my balls, gramps. The '90s are over.

Bleep fucking bloop.

The author is an astromech droid. The text was translated from 27th-generation binary by The Stranger's protocol droid.

no indication. This must happen to you all

WINTER BREAK IN VANCOUVER, BC

You and your friends were a bicycle gang, and you were blasting the biggest hiphop beat we had ever heard as the three of you cycled toward Hastings Street. Is this a trend in Vancouver? Turning those corners on low, souped-up bikes? We had never seen anything like it in Seattle, where our gangs tend to prefer automobiles or motorbikes. In Canada, even the gangsters are green.

YOU OUGHTA KNOW

In Seattle, New Year's Eve karaoke at International District mainstay Bush Garden attracted a lot of different skill levels. It was a shame that you, the young, red-haired woman who sang Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know," didn't take over the rest of the evening and do Alanis covers all night. Not only was your voice fantastic (with just the right kind of enunciation and guttural emphasis on "Go down on you/in a thee-ah-turr"), but as a performer, you also mastered the art of being sullen and magnetic at the same time.

MY SURPRISED FACE

You, an early thirtysomething man, were sipping coffee at Cafe Argento with a friend (boyfriend?) and an older woman who was discussing real estate. You wore a sweater the color of pancake batter, jeans, and black rectangular glasses. The boyfriend (let's assume he was the boyfriend) murmured something about a recent protest, maybe that antifascist one. "Another protest on Capitol Hill?" you asked, and then assumed an expression of total boredom. "My surprised face," you said.

O CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN

Training to become a ferryboat captain takes as many as 15 years. So what were you thinking on that cold January day when, from your captain's seat, you stared off across the water to Bremerton? Only two months ago, Washington State officials warned that upcoming retirements and a lack of a training pipeline could leave the ferry system critically short-staffed. Were you imagining your retirement? Were you thinking about how much your skills are needed and how few people can actually do them? What made you want to become a ferryboat captain, anyway? Why don't we know more about the lives of the people who safely sail us through Puget Sound?

SLIDING ON STEEL IN THE RAIN

Random squares of rain-slicked electrical access panels embedded into the sidewalks are one of the many dangers of deep winter in Seattle. Not so for you, wild one, forerunner, man wearing several layers of fuzzy coats. As the rain poured down outside Spin Cycle, you got a running start, jumped, and slid across the top one of those metal lids like it was nothing—like a child (or an adult who hasn't let his inner child die) slides on any and every available patch of ice. We salute you, and wish for you a long and wet winter.





What? You Want Action from Our State Legislature in 2016? Sorry.

Olympia Is Deeply Dysfunctional and Lawmakers Are Likely to Punt on All the Big Stuff

BY JOHN STANG

t's probably best to think of our state legislature as a "Mini Me" version of Congress's gridlock in Washington, DC.

Ever since the Republicans took over the Washington State Senate in 2013, Olympia has seen three years of hyper-partisan deadlock that has stymied most of the Democrats' legislative agenda.

Low-carbon vehicle fuels: killed. Trimming carbon emissions for polluters: stalled for two years. Raising the state's minimum wage: blocked for two years. Fixing our underfunded and understaffed public schools: a very slow slog. Getting our state leaders out from under the state supreme court's "contempt" finding for said underfunding of our public schools: hasn't happened for three years and counting. Eliminating tax breaks: mostly failure. Global warming: tough luck if you think that's a threat.

Simply put, the Democrat-controlled house and the Republican-dominated senate just don't get along. Instead, they spend most of their time killing each other's pet bills and packages over and over. Expect more of the same in the 60-day session that begins on January 11.

Republicans don't have much in the way of major bills they want passed, anyway. Their agenda focuses on preserving tax breaks and fighting against tax increases. Democrats, including Governor Jay Inslee, want to pass several items but lack leverage over the senate Republicans.

This is obviously a bad thing if you're a Seattle liberal. And it gets worse: Incumbent politicians cannot raise money for their reelection campaigns while the legislature is in session, which means that in 2016—which is a huge national and local election year—the passion just won't be there for going into legislative overtime (as the legislature has done in six out of eight recent years in the form of "special sessions").

In other words, unless something appears easy, no one's gonna go to the mat on anything controversial. And to repeat: Nothing is easy in Olympia.

That said, here are the big issues to cross your fingers and hope for action on in 2016.

FINDING MONEY FOR SCHOOLS: The

legislature might come up with a timetable for when to tackle the education funding shortfalls called out by the Washington State Supreme Court in its 2012 McCleary decision. But figuring out how to actually pay for more teachers and classrooms will probably remain in limbo until 2017. The question is whether the state will keep racking up \$100,000-a-day fines from the court for fiddling endlessly on this matter.

If you're asking, "What's McCleary?" the quick answer is that it's a state supreme court ruling that found our state leaders failing to meet their constitutional obligations to fully fund basic education. So far, the legislature has dragged its feet on fixing its McCleary shortfalls—so much so that the high court is now fining the state \$100,000 a day until it complies.

Basically, Republicans oppose closing tax

The Democrat-controlled house and the Republicandominated senate just don't get along. Instead, they spend most of their time killing each other's pet bills and packages over and over. Expect more of the same.

breaks and levying new taxes for the Mc-Cleary obligations, saying existing revenue sources are sufficient. Democrats argue the exact opposite. For the past few months, a bipartisan group of senators and representatives has tried to come up with a solid plan for finding the money. They're currently recommending we overhaul the state's property tax system and then shift the bulk of the burden for paying teachers' salaries from local school

districts to the state. (Right now, more than 290 individual school districts levy property taxes at 290 different rates to fund education.)

An extra \$3.5 billion will be needed from 2018 to 2022 to pay for the extra teachers, classrooms, and other improvements required by McCleary. That means a revenue plan needs to be nailed down no later than the 2017 legislative session. But the proposed property tax shift to the state picked up mostly negative reviews in seven legislative town hall meetings that the bipartisan group held across the state, said Senator Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island), a member of that task force. That's because roughly 290 school districts with roughly 290 different property tax rates translates into 290 different scenarios for what would happen if things change. This makes the proposal overly complicated and politically unfeasible.

Inslee and Rolfes said the legislature will concentrate in 2016 on mapping out a timetable for implementing the state's remaining McCleary obligations, leaving the actual identifying of funding sources to 2017. The attorney general's office believes setting a timetable in the 2016 session should put the daily \$100,000 supreme court McCleary fines on hold. Meanwhile, Inslee wants to set aside \$16.4 million in 2016 to pay those daily \$100,000 fines.

Bottom line: The serious *McCleary* work will be put off until 2017 with no guarantee that either side will change positions then.

RAISING THE STATE'S MINIMUM WAGE:

This could end up as a legislative stare-off that leads to a statewide public vote on the issue in November.

In the 2015 session, Senator Mike Baumgartner (R-Spokane) stopped a minimum-wage-hike bill by Representative Jessyn Farrell (D-Seattle) from leaving the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee, which Baumgartner chairs. Farrell's bill calls for raising Washington's statewide minimum wage from the current \$9.47 an hour to \$12 an hour over four years. Seattle, SeaTac, and recently Spokane and Tacoma have raised their minimum wage above the statewide level creating a hodgepodge of different minimum wages across Washington. Baumgartner also blocked a mandatory sick leave measure in 2015, as well as a bill to ensure gender pay

The house is expected to send all three bills back to the senate in the upcoming session, and the political dynamics could be changing on Farrell's minimum wage bill. Nick Hanauer, the self-described "zillionaire" from Seattle, has threatened to push an initiative next November to raise the state minimum wage to \$16 an hour. That has some business interests and conservatives wondering whether they would prefer a smaller statewide minimum wage be haggled out by all parties in the legislature, where nuances can be addressed, rather than via the bluntforce instrument of an initiative that allows no tweaking of ballot language once it's set. (For example, the conservative Washington Restaurant Association recently changed its opposition to an increased state minimum wage and is now supporting such a bill.)

Bottom line: Legislative action on this issue will depend on what various power brokers think about the likelihood of Hanauer getting a \$16-an-hour initiative passed next November.

INSLEE'S FIGHT AGAINST CARBON **EMISSIONS:** For the past two sessions, Republicans and a few Democrats have stopped Governor Inslee's efforts to put a carbon tax on the state's biggest polluters—and thereby thwarted Inslee's idea of routing carbon tax revenue to schools, transportation, and tax relief for the poor. This is Inslee's pet issue, and the GOP has enjoyed frustrating him on it. Inslee says he still wants a carbon tax, but this session might be the first time he'll put combating carbon emissions on a back burner in the legislature.

That's because last summer, Inslee chose to bypass the legislature and ordered the Washington State Department of Ecology to come up with a plan to regulate the carbon emissions of the state's 31 biggest air polluters. He contends he has the authority to do this under the Washington Clean Air Act and a 2008 state law that sets a goal of reducing the state's greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (with further trimming later). A draft plan was due by the end of 2015. Public feedback is scheduled for 2016 with adoption of a final plan tentatively expected next summer.

Republican lawmakers are gnashing their teeth over this approach, and there are rumblings about them trying to find a legal way to stop that process.

Meanwhile, two competing carbon emissions cap initiatives are in the works, both of them aiming for a November 2016 public vote. One is Carbon Washington's Initiative 732, which would charge polluters for carbon emissions, with that revenue used to cut the state sales tax. Another is the yet-to-be-detailed initiative by the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. It's expected to also call for a carbon tax, but would route the money to other state programs such as schools.

Bottom line: There is a good chance that carbon emissions will be trimmed in Washington this year. There is an equally good chance that the legislature won't be involved.

INCREASING TEACHERS' SALARIES:

Governor Inslee wants to increase the state's minimum annual salary for rookie teachers from \$35,700 to \$40,000, plus give all teachers a 1 percent pay raise. This is expected to cost an extra \$80 million in the 2016–2017 fiscal year, plus an extra \$100 million each subsequent year.

To pay for that, Inslee proposes to close four tax breaks totaling \$101 million in fiscal 2016–2017. The proposed closures target oil refineries, the exemption from sales taxes for people from out of state, an exemption for bottled water, and exemptions for certain applications of the real-estate excise tax. Inslee and the Democrats have tried unsuccessfully for years to get the senate Republican leaders several of whom are the largest recipients of oil industry campaign donations—to agree to close these same exemptions. This time around, Inslee is arguing: "Teaching a kid algebra is much more important than an oil industry tax break." Good luck.

Bottom line: Democrats don't appear to have the bargaining chips to convince the Republicans to budge from their keep-taxbreaks-intact posture, so don't expect much action on this.

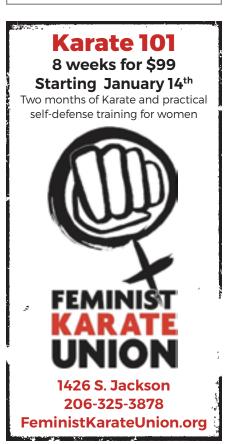
All in all, we're looking at a lot of sound and fury that signifies nothing during the 2016 legislative session. Don't like it? Get to work on electing different people to the state legislature, or make sure vou're registered and ready to vote on the multiple fall ballot measures that will let you do the legislature's job yourself. Or, even better: Do both things at once!



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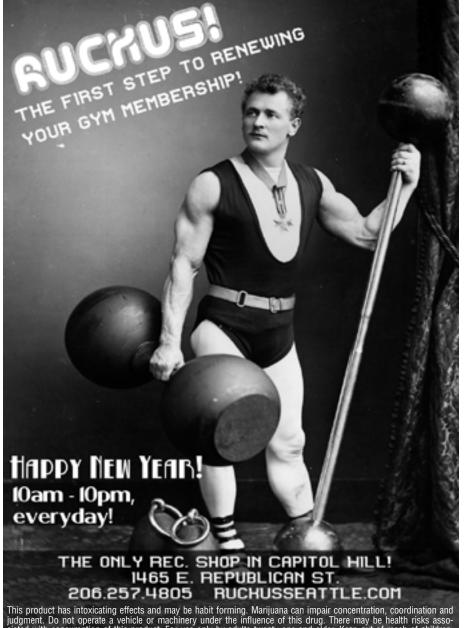
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What's in Store for **Weed in 2016?**

Professionals in the Marijuana Industry Predict Growth, Data, Regulation, and Snoop Dogg BY TOBIAS COUGHLIN-BOGUE

S o 2015 was a helluva year for weed in Washington State: Cannabusiness became serious business, medical marijuana began its official demise, some weird and wonderful new products arrived on the market, and a whole lot of other madness happened. And while we've worked out a few kinks since we legalized pot, there's still a lot more to accomplish. I asked people in the marijuana industry to dust off their Ouija boards and consult the spirits about what's in store for 2016.

"We're going to see banking open up even more, less initiatives like the one in Ohio (no capital cronyism), and more states embracing robust regulation to satisfy the Feds. We'll also likely see more [Native American] tribes jump into state compacts to try their hand in the business." —Hilary Bricken, editor of Canna Law Blog and attorney at Canna Law Group

"The big question is what will happen to the illegal delivery services. I doubt there will be a way for legal delivery this year—maybe a few years out. I think there is a huge illicit market for delivery now that has the potential to undercut the legal 502 shops unless something is done about it." —Ian Eisenberg, owner of Uncle Ike's Pot Shop

"Much like the trend to organic food, we'll see more of a trend to organic cannabis, both in production and consumer demand. In 2015, it was good enough to just have

"I predict the emergence of dope bars at parties alongside cocktail bars."

the luxury to walk into stores to legally buy weed, but excitement has since waned and minds have begun to ponder new issues, for example, what's in or on the pot. As news rolls in about pesticide detections and heavy carbon footprints from cannabis, demand for third-party-tested, organic and/or sun-grown cannabis will rapidly rise." —Jerry Lapora, director of operations at Emerald Twist

"I think we'll see the entry into the market of new brands that look and feel more national in scope. I wouldn't be surprised if we see a couple of the celebrity brands being launched here, like Marley Natural and Snoop Dogg's leaf product." —Patrick Devlin, cofounder of and zootologist at Zoots Premium Cannabis Infusions

"I believe 2016 is going to be a different ball game for legal cannabis in Washington. So many patients are holding their breath, hoping that they will still have plenty of convenient access points to get their meds... We [at SCI] are excited because this will be a big year for education in the industry. With the expectation of knowledge-certified consultants selling MMJ, I hope we will see a stronger, more consistent knowledge base at play to assist patients... On the innovation side, I will be interested to see more from the evolving world of extraction and preservation of the plant's real terpenes... The more we know about the plant, the more I expect we will want to deliver it in as unadulterated a form as possible." -Trey Reckling, cofounder of the Science of Cannabis Institute

"Patients/recreational users will seek out educational/appreciation opportunities about cannabis. Their increased knowledge base will create a demand for better labeling of all cannabis products. Patients and their advocates need to continue to be politically active. Their individual voices need to be heard so that appropriate legislation is designed and implemented. I predict less than 50 percent of existing patients join the medical marijuana authorization database that becomes operational July 1, 2016." —Lisa Buchanan, cannabis nurse and owner of Paisley Nursing Group

"New testing standards will reveal a pesticide and fungicide issue in 502 products. There will be new market growth in concentrate products. Overall market growth will be less than 20 percent." —Hoby Douglass, Clarity Farms

"I believe that the public perception of cannabis use will change noticeably. Furthermore, I believe the professional opportunities in the cannabis industry are going to expand and become much more attractive to your average member of the workforce." —Will Ritthaler, account manager of the Goodship

"I predict the emergence of dope bars at parties alongside cocktail bars. I was at a private soiree last weekend with a dope bar front and center tended by professionals who knew all about flower strains, edibles, topicals, et cetera. It's nice to see this come into the light with legalization."—Jody Hall, owner of the Goodship

"I think most of the large black-market grows will, unfortunately, be shutting down. The sad thing is most of these operations were simply mom-and-pops operating legally under the medical laws. But now that legal weed has pushed out medical, the local medical grower's only choice is to stop. Small operations will most likely continue as long as their profits stay humble. It seems the corporate state—the One Percent, the Illuminati, or whatever you want to call them—wants complete elimination of any competition so they can cash out big time. Small-time growers aren't a cause for concern, financially." —"Fred," underground grower ■



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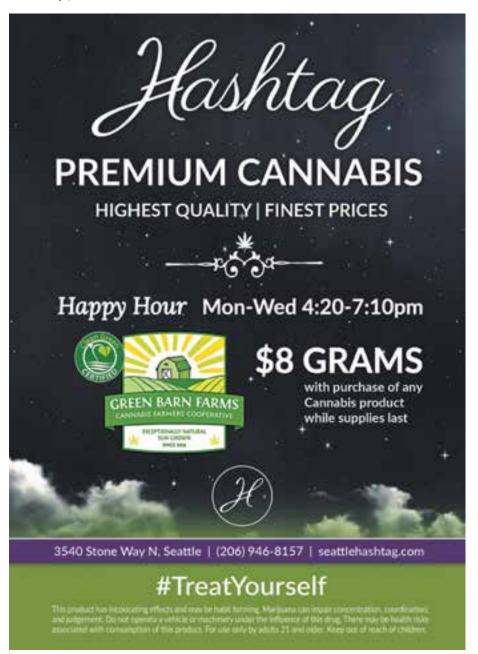
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IZ VIIELE with Dash Kwiatkowski

At 18, she was profiled in The New Yorker. At 22, she appeared on Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham." Her joke, "Feminist Sex Positions," went viral on YouTube. She just completed writing and producing season one of the animated web series, "Damaged" AND Liz recently released her debut CD, "Emotionally Exhausting" on iTunes.

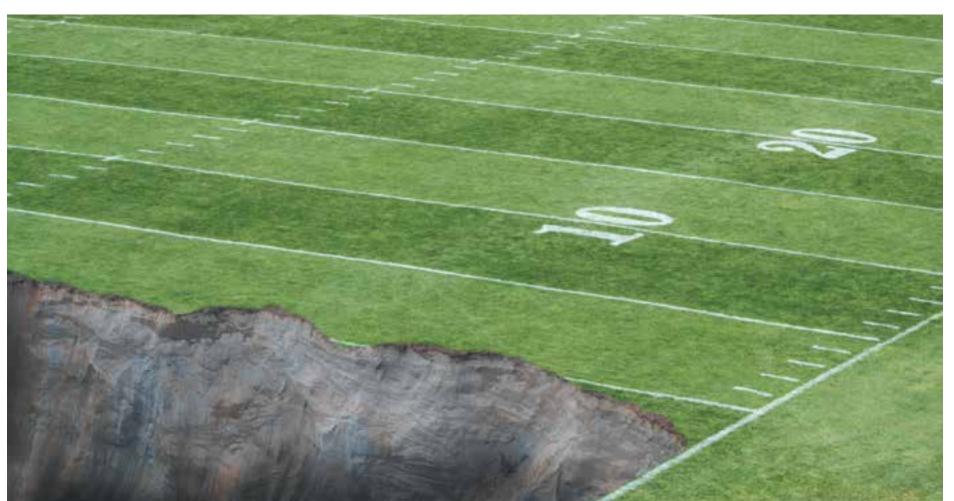


Dash Kwiatkowski is a chubby nerd. He's into comic books and jokes. He has dope sideburns but it's not a Wolverine thing. A Bay Area favorite.



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REMEMBER LAST YEAR'S SUPER BOWL? When the Seahawks didn't quite make it to the end zone and it all fell apart and in many ways was the end of the world?

Once More into the Postseason with the Statistically Unmatched, Often Heartbreaking Seattle Seahawks

What My Obsession with Sports Statistics Can Tell Us About Our Super-Bowl Chances

BY SPIKE FRIEDMAN

he Seattle Seahawks, as they have done over the past 15 years with the sort of consistency that stiffens a lazy sportswriter, will enter the NFL postseason this week. This year's playoff berth is the team's fourth consecutive, and tenth since 2003. Paired with three Super Bowl appearances and one Super Bowl win, the Seahawks' recent run of success is surpassed by only one team (the New England Patriots) and matched by at most a small handful of others. Green Bay, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore can all make cases. Perhaps the New York Giants could as well? I don't know and I don't really care.

I do care about what this run is doing to me, and by solipsistic proxy the entire Seattle Seahawks fan base. The 12s. We 12s who root for Pete Carroll, the Legion of Boom, Beast Mode, and Russell Wilson. Who were given Mike Holmgren, Matt Hasselbeck, and an offensive line composed of titans. I mean, this is a spectacular run. What the hell are we, now that we're consistently excellent?



 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{I've}}$ been obsessed with sports statistics since I was young. I collected baseball cards, all my Griffey rookie cards sit in one special binder adjacent to thousands of others in a box at my mom's house, and I spent my early childhood memorizing the numbers on the back of them. I remember my parents teaching me how to calculate ERA in the Dairy Queen in Poulsbo when I was in kindergarten. I was the sort of kid who wanted to play with numbers, but I also needed to prove my guys were the best guys. I'd track home-run races and strikeout counts. I hated Sammy Sosa for reasons that confuse me now. When the Mariners had a middle infield of Omar Vizquel and Joey Cora, I'd track double plays turned (at the time ignorant of all the contextual variables that can affect those numbers). As I learned more, I dug myself into Baseball Prospectus and Baseball America, read Bill James, found a host of information online.

In what qualified as the defining sports trauma of my life until last year, the 2001 Seattle Mariners put together what was by most measures the best season in baseball history. before getting dumped out of the playoffs by Rudy Giuliani's Yankees. That loss pushed me only further down the rabbit hole of numbers. I needed to prove that the good team I liked was actually good—that their postseason loss was a fluke result and not indicative of actual quality. There are plenty of numbers that will show that the baseball postseason is a goddamn lottery that does little to indicate team quality. Going forward, I wanted the Mariners to be good and smart. Yet as time marched forward, they only got worse and dumber. I think I thought my knowledge could equal control even if the team was bad. I would never be so ignorant as to allow myself to get destroyed by

And then last year's Super Bowl happened.



This past weekend, the Seattle Seahawks played in the DVOA Super Bowl, which is not a real thing, except in so far as it was. For the first time since a website called Football Outsiders started tracking their DVOA metric (a catchall for the per-play efficiency of a football || led the league in scoring defense this year, for team adjusted for opponent strength), the two best teams in the league as measured by DVOA squared off in the final game of the season. This evinced a certain amount of interest from a segment of the Seahawks fan base.

See, the Seahawks have been the best football team every year since 2012 as measured by DVOA, and a fourth straight crown would have been unprecedented. Regardless of postseason results (and football playoffs, remember, are a goddamn lottery, even if the odds are a little better than their baseball equivalent), the Seahawks had the opportunity by an objective measure to be the best team in football for a fourth straight year. And they beat Arizona by 30 points, in an all-around performance that suggests the Seahawks are the most dangerous team heading into the playoffs.

Essentially the Seahawks' dominant win on Sunday means the Seahawks have been the best football team in the NFL since Mitt Romney's concession speech.

I appreciate the number-focused fan base of Seattle sports, and not only because I contribute to it. It fits this city. Seattle has been a city of engineers since it was settled: the Denny Regrade, Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon. There's the city's history of sports failure, and the paired desire to understand how to set that right and contextualize failure as it comes. It's proactive. Kind of.

I also think it's cool that this city has not allowed the Seahawks' success to breed a sense of entitlement. If anything, there's a level of terror that still underlines our collective perception of this team. The Seahawks the fourth season in a row. Yet if you were to poll the fan base as a whole on the quality of the defense this year, you'd get an unhealthy amount of weary sighs.

Because, again, last year's Super Bowl happened.

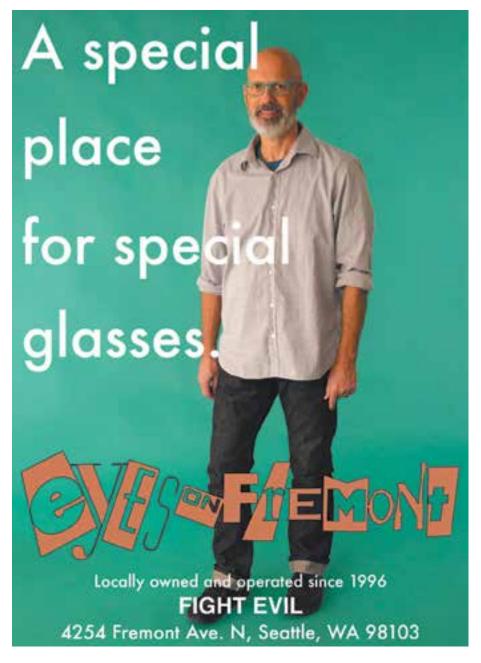


Sports exist to place emotions at a safe distance from the self. But fuck me if I wasn't thrown into a weeklong depression because of last year's Super Bowl. As the days passed, and my emotional state did not change, I knew that I needed to make a change to my emotional relationship with sports, yet I've done nothing. Here I am, teetering on the precipice of caring too much yet again.

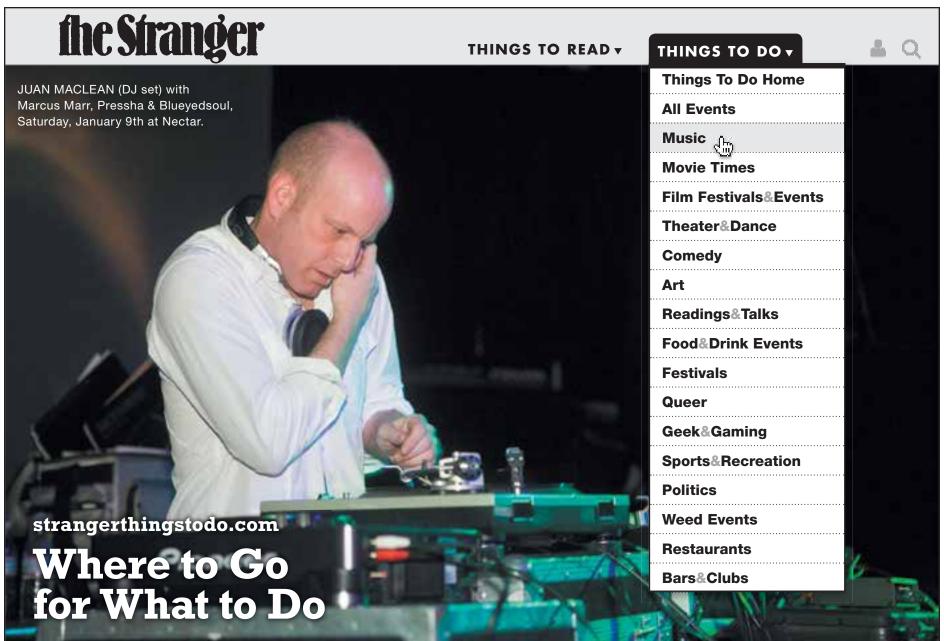
So once more into the breach we go. As Seahawks fans, we are lucky. We didn't do anything to deserve a run of genuine excellence. We were given this team. Our affinity to the franchise has nothing to do with the result, yet that does not diminish how great this team has been for us.

But I'm also, for the first time, emotionally unprepared. I don't want to be hurt again. I know how stupid that sounds. If there were a statistic for quality of emotional reaction to sports, this take would fare poorly. Yet here

The Seahawks are the best team in football. They are three games away from their third consecutive Super Bowl appearance. They are four wins away from a cinematic level of redemption. They are more likely than not going to break our hearts.









I VISITED THIS PSYCHIC In the shadow of the Space Needle.

What's Going to Happen in 2016?

A Visit to a Psychic, an Astrologer, and Two Other Mystics

BY MARTI JONJAK

Palm Reading \$20. by Psychic Tabitha of Psychic Tabitha, lovespellbook.com

sychic Tabitha works in a parking lot off Denny Way, sandwiched between the Space Needle and a 7-Eleven. "Something told me I needed to be based here. It was a very strong feeling," she says. Her business's facade is pastel orange, the color of apricot frosting. Its windows blink with neon lights, while a scrolling billboard sign advertises various fortune-telling services. The stand is smaller than an espresso shack, smaller than a parking spot, and the full unit fits tidily into the lot's corner. "I think they used to use this section for motorcycles," says Tabitha.

Inside, the sunset colors and dainty furnishings evoke a dreamy bedroom quality. There are butterfly rugs, capiz-shell chandeliers, scented candles, bright curtains, and polka-dot ruffles. Tabitha sits at a white table, radiating authority. Her makeup is elaborate

and perfectly applied, and her fingernails are exactly the way you'd want a fortune-teller's fingernails to be: from the length (dramatic), to the tips (stiletto), to the color (dolphin gray), to the finish (high gloss).

I imagine her clicking them searchingly against a crystal ball. She has one! Readings are \$100. I ask her how it works. "When you connect with the crystal, it drains everything out: your feelings, your affairs, certain times and dates, situations that need to be mended. Just whatever you're going through in the moment. That's what I pick up on," she says. "I love crystals. I use them around my house, too. They're very untouched, very raw. They're the oldest thing on earth," she says.

For my reading, I show her the palm of my dominant hand. As Tabitha observes its various important lines, we talk about my life path. Like a stream of liquid gold, it stretches out promisingly before me, says Tabitha. "I feel something new coming to you. You're meant to be in a bigger place," she says. And then: "I'm seeing a little debris in your path, and it needs to be removed." (Here, I imagine my life path as a sidewalk. It's strewn with discarded fast food. A crow is pecking attentively at a rubbery french fry.) Tabitha instructs me to vanish my problems by writing a list of my obstacles. Then I must go outside and burn the list. The last step is important. "You don't want to trap any negative energy inside the home," she says.

Random questions come up. I ask Tabitha what color Seattle's aura is, "It's impossible to tell. Millions of people live here. Their colors all muddle together," she says. I ask about her business: "It's great. I get a lot of foot traffic." I ask what the most common topic is: "Love. It's the most powerful thing in the world."

> **Astrological Forecast** \$65, by Nancy Kahn of Astrology for Living, astrologyforliving.net

strologist Nancy Kahn runs her business from her Queen Anne home, a calming space with rattan furniture and flower-print pillows. On every wall, a series of large paintings depict a man, Meher Baba, standing center before a backdrop of languorous swirls and powerful feelings. Meher is an Indian mystic with a silken mustache, whom Nancy describes as "a Christ-like spiritual master." (Fun fact: For decades, Meher sustained a vow of silence. From his deathbed, he conveyed his final message, using hand signals: "Do not forget that I am God.")

"Long ago, I met a woman in a temple who was really into him. She loaned me his book and said she couldn't stop crying as she was reading it. So I opened the book, and it was like Meher Baba was opening my heart. I couldn't stop crying, either. I've been with him ever since," says Nancy. After Meher's death, Nancy took a pilgrimage to India and hung out with his disciples. "It was like being high on love for a whole month," she says. Upon her return, she was fired from her job as a secretary. There and then, Nancy decided she'd become a professional astrologer. She opened her first office in 1979 and never looked back.

It's hard not to be charmed by Nancy, this elderly woman in a tie-collar blouse. We're doing my birth-chart analysis, which she created after I told her the date, time, and location of my first breath. During the reading, she speaks confidently into a silver microphone plugged into a cassette recorder. She gives me the tape when we finish our session. I play it whenever I'm alone, gliding over the soggy black streets in my big yellow car. Nancy's voice matches the shower curtain in her tidy bathroom: white lace with a lavender underlay.

There's a short, complicated silence as she peers into my chart—a circle containing numbers and symbols whose meanings are ungraspable to me. Nancy presents the information in cogent nuggets, such as: "Your neck is sensitive to cold. Wear mufflers in the wintry weather." Some vague conflicts do appear, but they end so happily that my heart wants to reach out its little arms. "As Saturn sits on Neptune, it's gonna feel weird. It's gonna feel heavy. But don't believe it if Saturn tells you your high ideals can't be fulfilled. Just don't believe it," she says.

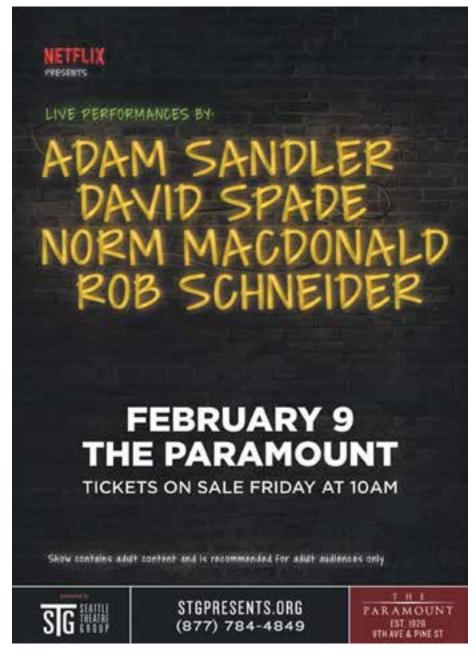
Days later, Nancy thoughtfully checks in, warning me to avoid any negative thoughts I might have in the coming year. She's created a 2016 forecast for the citizens of Seattle and its surrounding areas. Here are the thrilling basics: You can manifest your dreams; you'll want to communicate with everyone you're relating to, both verbally and in writing; and the sun is in conjunction with Pluto, bringing transformations to your home or family or identity or personal life, potentially.

> **Spirit-Guide Portrait** \$30, by Susan McAliley of Spirit Art by Susan, susanmcaliley.com

You have several spirit guides, and at all times they're with you, being thoughtful and gauzy and busily swooshing around, according to Susan McAliley, an illustrator in White Center with a caressing voice, cloudsoft hair, and Native American-inspired jewelry. Despite the ubiquity of spirit guides, perhaps you're oblivious to your spirits' presence. That's because "the guides exist at a different vibrational level than we do," says Susan. "They can't interfere with your life unless you ask for their help directly."

Our guides come in a range of varieties, she says as we flip through her portfolio of custom portraits. I follow along, taking notes. Some are angelic, sent from a higher dimension. (A towheaded, bewinged fellow.)









"I asked them what

kind of food they

liked to eat, and

they responded as

a collective mind.

I heard them say.

'Peanut butter.""

SPIRIT GUIDE PORTRAIT This is an example of Susan McAliley's work.

 \blacktriangleleft Others are ancestral, descended from one's biological family. (Heavy wrinkles, bowl cut.) Some might've played a role in a past life. (Enrobed in medieval costumery.) There are nature spirits, including totem animals. (A bear who calls himself Root Bear. which makes Susan chuckle.) And there are plenty of extraterrestrial beings. (Some are chubby and inquisitive, others have starshaped pupils, or nubby horns, or other whimsical characteristics.)

Susan presents me with an image of my guide. It turns out she's an Egyptian pharaoh with a serene expression and striped headdress. Since I'd placed my order via e-mail, I ask Susan to explain her current production process. "Whenever I'm working remotely, I start by meditating on the person's full name. Then I run through a visualization. I take myself to the Hall of Guides. The title

is something I made up, but it really seems to fit well. When I'm in the Hall of Guides, there's a series of doors that rotate or float by. Then a door will stop. That's the door with your name written on it. I open the door and enter a room. Sometimes I'm drawn to an open space that feels like a Greek temple, and that's your Room of Guides. There's a big marble throne in the middle. A guide is sitting in the throne. I'll

start to ask it to step forward, but usually before I'm able to get that far, they'll have already stepped forward. That's when I'll start sketching the portrait. The picture might not always come in at once, but it fills itself in. Now and then I might need to ask the spirit a question, like 'What color are your eyes?' but before I can even finish, the answer always appears in my mind."

A moment passes. I let Susan's words flow through me. "Your guides already knew you wanted this done," she tells me, smilingly. "They're very excited about my work. They love getting their picture drawn."

Animal-Communication Session \$50. by Neave of Neave. **Animal Communicator.** neaveanimals.com

N eave the animal communicator says she has spoken with slugs, snails, beetles, spiders, cats, snakes, owls, dogs, and horses. Goldfish too: "I asked them what kind of food they liked to eat, and they responded as a collective mind. I heard them say, 'Peanut butter.' I said, 'What? That'll stick to your lips.' Then there was all this giggling. I realized they were teasing me!" she says.

Neave usually works from her Ballard home, using a stuffed animal as a surrogate for the pet, and speaking to its owners by telephone. But on the day I get to watch Neave work, she's meeting her subject in person, a 4-year-old whippet mix named Polly Darton. Polly has glossy patchwork fur and an introspective expression, and she moves with somber urgency. She's wearing a cape on the day I meet her. Though she lives in a luxurious high-rise downtown, she was previously a rescue dog, discovered roving the streets of Atlanta. Neave gets set up, placing various mystical items before her: beaded charms, healing orbs, horsehair, chakra crystals, rose water, an assortment of forest-critter pelts. I ask about her preparation process. "It's like I'm tuning the energetic universal radio to the station of Polly," she says.

Neave swirls a pendant above Pollv's body to unclog some settled energy. Then she concentrates, enabling a telepathic con-

nection. The two fall easily into conversation. Neave asks questions and conveys the dog's responses aloud. Polly's tone is frank, with a lighthearted cockiness. The owner and I ask Polly what she's looking forward to in the coming vear. "I don't understand what you mean. I live in the present. I look forward to going on a walk today," says Polly. As her messages spill out from Neave's mouth, Polly mostly sleeps on the

floor. Now and then she springs up and trots about the room, glancing nonchalantly at any objects or persons in her path. "What animal were you in a previous life?" we ask.

"A dog," says Polly.

Neave stops communicating with Polly for a moment to share with me a few details about her own dog, who's died: "I know that my dog was an eagle, but I don't know what she is now."

Through Neave, Polly requests that her owner touch base with her whenever she leaves Polly alone in the unit. "Let her know when you'll be back. Just say the time out loud. Polly will understand it," adds Neave. From there, the session quickly gets deep. We explore Polly's abandonment fears stemming from a separation from her mother in childhood. Neave takes Polly through a trauma-processing exercise, inviting Polly to imagine the upsetting memory and rewrite its outcome, multiple times. What follows is too personal to discuss here, but the work seems to have brought Polly a positive spiritual transformation in the days that followed. Also "her clothes are fitting better," said her

Marti Joniak is a longtime Stranger contributor and a columnist for McSweeneu's. Her series examines the 2013 shooting at the Twilight Exit. Find it here: mcsweeneys.net/ authors/marti-jonjak.





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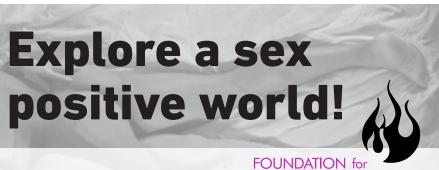
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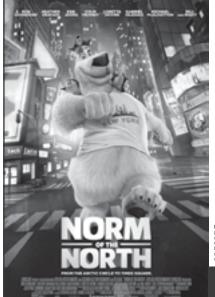
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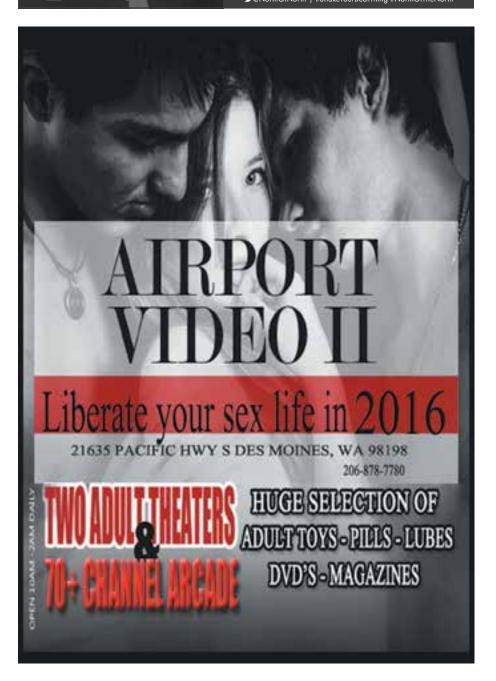
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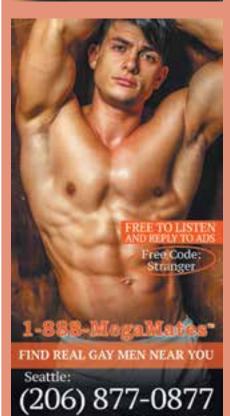


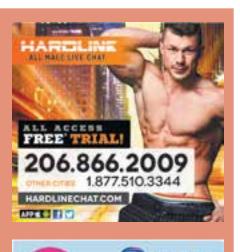
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SAVAGE LOVE

Phones & Bones BY DAN SAVAGE

O-RING

I'm a 45-year-old straight male. Politically and $socially, \ I\ consider\ myself\ an\ ardent\ feminist.$ There is nothing I enjoy more than giving a woman an orgasm or two. I'm very GGG and will cheerfully do whatever it takes. Fingers, tongue, cock, vibrator—I'm in. If it takes a long time, so much the better. I'm okay with all of

that. Now and again, though, I really like a quickie, a good old-fashioned "Wham, bam, thank you, ma'am!" The only ladies I've found willing $to\ engage\ in\ those\ cock\text{-}centric$ acts are sex workers. I'm okay with that, too. But the last time I paid for it, I was just about to slip my cock in doggy-style when

her phone rang. It was in reach, and she picked it up! I hesitated, but she didn't pull $away,\ and\ in\ fact\ pushed\ back\ a\ bit\ while\ she$ answered. I figured this was what I came for, so I proceeded. Her cavalier attitude toward being fucked from behind while having a trivial phone conversation wound up being a huge turn-on for me. I hadn't come that quickly since I was a teen. She laughed that she should take calls $more\ of ten.\ What\ kind\ of\ beast\ am\ I\ that\ I\ really$ $enjoyed\ such\ utter\ in difference?\ Does\ this\ reveal$ some dark secret deep in my psyche? How can that mesh with mu otherwise feminist views?

> Premature Ejaculation Needs $Some\ Introspective\ View\ Examined$

First, PENSIVE, "enjoys giving women orgasms" sets the bar for "ardent feminist" just a bit low. So here's hoping your feminism $\,$ involves more than penetrating a willing partner $\,$ with your fingers, tongue, cock, and whatever vibrators happen to be lying around. Because if your feminism doesn't include support for pro-choice policies and candidates, regular donations to Planned Parenthood, backing equal pay for equal work, speaking up when other men say shitty/rapey/dehumanizing things about women (particularly when there isn't a woman in the room whose pussy you want to lick until you come, because feminism!)—and more—then you're not a feminist, ardent or otherwise.

Moving on... Why did it turn you on when the sex worker took a call during your session? Because it did. Turn-ons are subjective and mysterious. People who are curious about their turn-ons have to start with "this turns me on" and work backward from there. And to figure out why a particular fabric/adornment/attitude/scenario arouses us, we use the only tools available to us—guesswork and self-serving rationalizations—to invent a backstory that makes some sort of logical sense, and then we apply it to something (kinks, turn-ons, orgasms) that really defies logic.
So, PENSIVE, if I were to hazard some

guesswork on your behalf, I'd probably go with this: Being treated with passive contempt by someone that you are supposed to be wielding power over (the woman you're fucking, a sex worker you've hired)—being subtly humiliated and mildly degraded by that woman—taps a vein of eroticized self-hatred that makes you come quickly and come hard.

And while that's wonderful for you, PEN-SIVE, it isn't proof you're a feminist.

I'm a 29-year-old gay trans man. On female hormones, I took a long time to come and usually $wouldn't\ come\ at\ all.\ I\ always\ enjoyed\ sex;\ I\ just$ wasn't focused on coming. My partners would or wouldn't, depending on their preferences. Since $starting\ testosterone\ a\ few\ years\ ago,\ I\ now\ come$ quickly and easily. (Sometimes too quickly and easily.) My problem is that after I come, like most men, I'm done with sex. And the stronger $the\ organs,\ the\ truer\ this\ is.\ A\ while\ ago,\ after\ a$ $really \, fun \, \, time, \, I \, \, woke \, \, to \, find \, \, that \, I'd \, \, acciden$ tally fallen asleep and left my longtime hookup buddy to fend for himself. Other times, I'm just tired and/or turned off. I definitely don't want anyone inside me (it hurts), and while I've tried mustering enthusiasm for blowjobs, hand jobs,

etc., my attempts come across as pretty tepid. So in the context of both ongoing relationships $\,$ $of\ various\ sorts\ and\ hookups,\ what's\ the\ eti$ quette? I've found myself just avoiding things that'll push me to come, because I don't want to be rude. And since I've always enjoyed sex without orgasms, this doesn't bother me mostly. But

once in a while, I would like to come. How can I do this and still take care of $the \ other guy?$

Not Good At Sexy Abbreviations

Use your words, NGASA: "If it's not a problem, I'd rather come after you do-my refractory period kicks in hard when I come and, like other men, I

briefly lose interest in sex. On top of that, I'm a terrible actor. So let's make you come first or let's try to come at the same time, okay?"

My wife and I are bisexual—we're a man and woman—and we've been tiptoeing right up to the edge of organizing a threesome or swap through 3nder. But we haven't gone through with it yet—too many flakes and fakes. But $we \ have \ no \ complaints-just \ contemplating \ a$ threesome has put amazing energy back into our sex life. Is there a name for the explosive sex you have with your longtime partner when you're anticipating a group scene or threesome? If not, can we suggest the neologism "presome"? Rhymes with threesome!

 $Married\ With\ Anticipated\ High\ Jinks$

The phenomenon you describe—the insanely hot sex a couple has before a threesome or other sexual adventure—has been noted by sex researchers and couples counselors. Dr. Margie Nichols, a psychologist and sex therapist, told the New York Times she frequently urges the non-kinky couples she sees to emulate kinky couples. "Kinky couples plan sex," Nichols told Amy Sohn, "and simmer for days in advance."

Many couples in the planning stages of a threesome do a lot more than simmer: Like you and the wife, MWAHJ, they find themselves having hot twosomes in anticipation of the impending (and hopefully hot) threesome. I think "presome" is a wonderful term to describe that kind of sex-I'm officially endorsing your proposed neologism—but I don't think it works as well for four-way swaps, group sex, BDSM play parties, etc., because it obviously rhymes with/ riffs on "threesome." But it's an excellent term to describe the situation you and the wife are in.

To describe the sex you'll have in the wake of your first successful threesome, I would propose the term "postsome."

I thought your advice to SCRAPE, the guy whose penis was suffering due to his girlfriend's shaved-but-stubbly labia, was spot-on—except in regards to waxing. As both a former professional waxer and a woman with very coarse $pubic\ hair,\ I\ hope\ you\ don't\ mind\ if\ I\ correct$ you: Waxed hair does not grow back as prickly as shaved hair. The hair follicle tapers from its root. When shaved, it is cut straight across at its thickest point. The hair, as it grows, continues to grow from there. When waxed, the hair is removed at its root, and a new hair will grow intact, with the softer taper. I cannot shave without extreme discomfort during regrowth (like needles in my undies!). SCRAPE's girl-friend's post-wax stubble may still be too uncomfortable for him, but it will doubtless be an improvement. Honestly, I'd be amazed if she's not currently in more pain than he is!

Smooth Moves

Thanks for sharing, SM. \blacksquare

Listen to Dan's podcast every week at savagelovecast.com.

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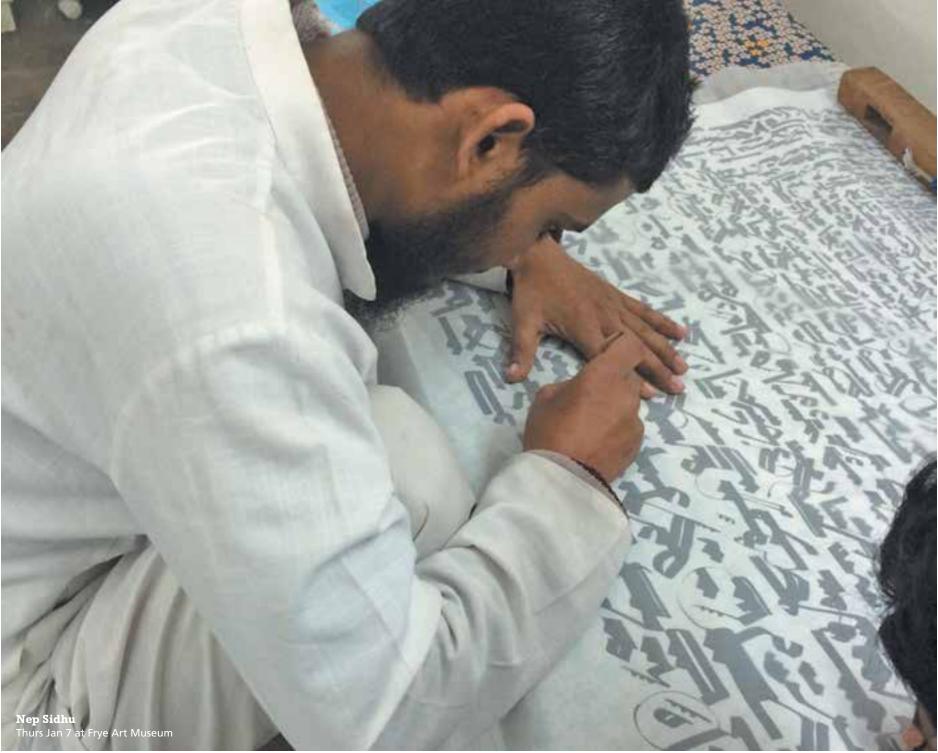




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READINGS & TALKS

Ishmael Butler and Nep Sidhu

DON'T MISS This artist talk is part of the Frye's ongoing series featuring Stranger Genius Award winners. Ishmael Butler scooped up a Grammy when he was rapping with Digable Planets, but he's more recently known for his group Shabazz Palaces. Nep Sidhu is a conceptual artist who makes super cool, elaborate weavings. The two collaborated on Malcolm's Smile, a huge sonic/architectural/textile altar for Malcolm X that's hanging at the Frye right now. Be sure to check it out before the talk, which should leave you feeling pretty cosmic. (Frye Art Museum, Thurs

Jan 7, 6 pm, free) RICH SMITH

We also recommend...

Silent Reading Party: Sorrento Hotel, Wed Jan 6, 6 pm, free

Seattle StorySLAM: Dedication: Fremont Abbey, Thurs Jan 7, 8 pm, \$8

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

PERFORMANCE

14/48: The World's **Quickest Theater Festival**

DON'T MISS True to its name, the 14/48 Festival turns around 14 brand-new,

theme-based, 10-minute plays in two days. The high-pressure nature of the event produces an evening of surprising theater for the audience, who arrive in their seats charged with expectation and anxiety for the performers. Though there are always a few experiments that don't quite come together, it's endlessly fascinating to see the way one theme filters through the minds of several very different theater artists. On the writing side, this year features festival newbies Julia Griffin (who claims to specialize in "GORE!!!" in her TPS profile) and Mike Murphy, who's been doing improv at Jet City for a decade. Expect shit to get weird. (ACT Theatre, Fri-Sat, \$20, through Jan 16) RICH

We also recommend...

THEATER

The Book of Mormon: Paramount Theatre, through Jan 10, \$58-\$166 King Kirby: The Ballard Underground, Jan 8-23, \$15

COMEDY

Collide-O-Scope: Re-bar, Mon Jan 11, 6:30-11 pm, \$7, 21+

Comedy Womb Open Mic: Rendezvous, Tues Jan 12, 7 and 9 pm, \$5

The Gay Uncle Time: Rendezvous, Wed Jan 6, 7 pm, \$5

Wine Shots: Comedy's Happiest Hour: Rendezvous, Sun Jan 10, 8 pm, \$5

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

Continued
ightharpoonup

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THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

Bootie Seattle: New Year's Eve **Do-Over Party!**

DON'T MISS Look, I'm not trying to be critical, but you could've done a better job ringing in the New Year. Getting drunk at home alone and watching Erin Brockovich with your cat was not exactly an auspicious start to 2016. But lucky you: The everything-sexual mash-up party Bootie is giving you a do-over. This Friday, they're New-Year's-Eveing all over again, complete with countdown and balloon drop and, of course, mash-ups aplenty. Wear something slutty, grab a stranger to kiss at midnight. participate in the dropping of balls, and really fag-out good and proper this time. (Neumos, Fri Jan 8, 9 pm, \$10) MATT BAUME

We recommend...

Bearaoke: Cuff, Tues Jan 12, 8 pm, free, 21+ Cucci's Critter Barn: Kremwerk, Sat Jan 9, 8 pm. \$5/\$8

Cuff Country Fridays: Cuff, Fri Jan 8, 7 pm, free, 21+

DJ Night: Cuff, Jan 8-9, 10 pm, free, 21+ The Gay Uncle Time: Rendezvous, Wed Jan 6. 7 pm. \$5

I Hate Karaoke: Pony, Tues Jan 12, 9 pm, free, 21+

Robbie Turner's Playground: R Place, Wed Jan 6. free. 21+

Wildrose Karaoke: Wildrose, Wed Jan 6,

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

Noma: My Perfect Storm

DON'T MISS Noma is a restaurant in the city of Copenhagen. It focuses on foods that are specific to Scandinavia. The restaurant has won numerous awards, and it is praised by journalists from around the world. Noma's co-owner and head chef René Redzepi is very passionate about food and the nature of the human body and its senses. He has a culinary philosophy that's at once simple and profound: We do not just eat food, but we also eat the seasons. But the best part of this documentary is its cinematography. The images of Noma's dishes are so stunning that it's hard to believe they are objects you put in your mouth and destroy. These are things for your eyes only. (Northwest Film Forum, Jan 8-14, \$11) CHARLES

We also recommend...

The Big Short: Various locations Carol: Various locations Creed: Various locations The Good Dinosaur: Various locations

The Martian: Various locations

Mustang: Seven Gables

The Revenant: Various locations, Opens Fri

Spectre: Various locations **Spotlight**: Various locations

Star Wars: The Force Awakens: Various

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

Julia Freeman: **Quiet Alter**

DON'T MISS For three years at NEPO 5K, Seattle artist Julia Freeman set up carnival-like booths that were systems of one-on-one interaction—but where the participants didn't face each other directly. The performers sat behind screens. One year, artist and audience member held hands and looked through peepholes into each other's eyes, then the audience member was rewarded with a photograph taken by the artist's father on a road trip. Another year, all you could see peeking out from the confessional-style window were women's hands, working on modest craft projects. For Quiet Alter, curated by Vignettes, Freeman "confronts and indulges in the history of psychopharmacology, the pharmaceutical industry and their hidden but understood effects on our culture. As a way to expose the use and abuse of the industries and medications, Freeman uses collage, sculpture, video, a board game, and a written essay by Cristien Storm to create an installation about how pharmaceuticals are quietly altering our world." Taking on the drug industry sounds heavy-handed, but Freeman's style is as light (in a good way) as a leaf. (Glass Box Gallery, opening reception Sat Jan 9, 7-10 pm, free) JEN GRAVES

We also recommend...

ART EVENTS

First Thursday Art Walk: Pioneer Square, Thurs Jan 7, free

Georgetown Art Attack: Georgetown, Sat Jan 9, 6-9 pm, free

Makers Market: Vermillion, Sun Jan 10, 1-6 pm, free

MUSEUMS

Art AIDS America: Tacoma Art Museum, Tues-Sun, \$14, through Jan 10

Camp Fires: The Queer Baroque of Léopold L. Foulem, Paul Mathieu, and Richard Milette: Bellevue Arts Museum. \$12, through Feb 14

Genius / 21 Century / Seattle: Frye Art Museum, Tues-Sun, free, through Jan 10 The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Pa-

per: Northwest African American Museum, Wed-Sun, \$7, through April 17

Heikki Seppa: Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, daily, free, through Feb 7

Intimate Impressionism from the National Gallery of Art: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$24.95, through Jan 10

Pae White: Command-Shift-4: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through Jan 24 **Paradox of Place: Contemporary Korean**

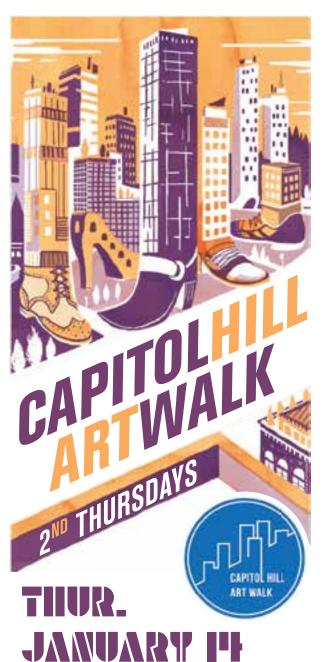
Art: Asian Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$9, through March 13

Wynne Greenwood and K8 Hardy: New Report, Artist Unknown: Frye Art Museum, Tues-Sun, free, through Jan 10

Andrea Geyer: Travels on a Slender Thread: The New Foundation Seattle, Thurs-Sat, free, through Jan 16

Anne Wilson: Drawings and Objects:

James Harris Gallery, opening reception Sat Jan 7, 3-5 pm, free, through Feb 13



an Art Muse

1400 E. Prospect St. 206-654-3100

www.seattleartmuseum.org
Paradox of Place: Contemporary Korean Art. Works
range from mixed-media installation and video art, to photography, all of which are prominent forms mporary art. Free admission during Capitol Hill Art Walk!

810 E. Roy St. 206-324-0407

www.joebar.org
Joe Bar presents Life is Great, new paintings by Brandon Vosika: a new collection of watercolor paintings that are aware of their own mortality and implore your viewing to validate their existence.

3 Kismet Salon and Spa

512 Broadway E. 206-860-0323

Salonkismet.com
Photography by local artist Terra Holcomb. "Photography allows me to capture a temporary and private moment between me and the environm before my dresses are left to decompose. By fitting the flowers or moss to my skin, I become camoufla and one within the wilderness."

515 Harvard Ave E 206-467-4846

Exhibition of contemporary art to be worn. With jewelry by Kyle Rees, Catherine Grisez, Elena Korakiani
Peggy Gannon, Divio Podica and Cannon, Cannon by Nyle Rees, Carlletine Ginsel, Elena Koranamilou, Peggy Gannon, Dixie Darling and wearable art by Bo Choi, Rebecca Maxim, Bill Gaylord, Liz Tran and others. Come meet the artists, adom your body with art and learn more about CoCA.

5 Revival Shop

233 Broadway E. 206-395-6414 www.RevivalSh

Chris Alderson's strong technical background shines in his mysterious paintings of women and animals, which have a whimsical and disturbing atmosphere. Open until 10p.

219 Broadway E. 206-328-4604

"Adhesive", photography wheat pasted on wood panels by Peter Bigelow. Featuring art by Tnglr, Stephanie Mc'Clelland, Marcy Stone-Francois, Hai Nguyen, Carolyn Hitt

1718 East Olive Way, Suite A

www.dendroicagallery.com

Martha Dunham's interdimensional inquiries. Dunham works in multiple media, including bronze, steel, textiles and paper.

504 E. Denny Way 206-832-6063

ghostgalleryart.com The Annual Miniature Art Extravaganza Continues! Almost 10 years running, this exhibit features hundreds of small works by local, national & global artists. 10"×10" & smaller, \$250 & under, these works are a great way to start your own original art collection.

1550 E Olive Way 206-859-2757

Bianca Yvonne's paintings focus on structure, geometry, color and texture. Bianca has worked with Amazon, Holiday Inn, MoMa, Skype, Odesza, Coca-Cola, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and more. Her new collection of solo work will be on display through January.

1623 Bellevue Ave. 206-467-4717

broadcastcoffee.com

WALL by Caite Mae Ramos is a gathering of oil paintings and watercolors exposing some of Caite
Mae Ramos' thought hoards. Zines available for sale.

11 True Love Art Galler

1525 Summit Ave. E. 206-227-3572

www.trueloveart.com Soft on the Outside: surrealist bodies in nature. Featuring the work of four local artists who present an unexpected juxtaposition of bodies and their environments through paint and sculpture: Seb Barnett, Tiara Brewer, Jeremias Lentini, Taylor Seamount. Music Dj Mz ArTiz, 6–10pm.

Ghost Gallery's Miniature Art Extravaganza overflows into several off-site venues, including Edle's! All pieces can be taken home upon purchase. Work by local & national artists included.

13a Office Nomads 1617 Boylston Ave. 206-323-6500

officenomads.com

"Exploring the world and every moment. Seattle ~> Infinity" with artist Noah Neighbor. Also showing Infinity: with artist todan neignbor. Also snowing acrylic on canvas works by Linde Husk, featuring large swaths of bold, saturated color. Show includes works from her Flora series and Figure series.

1617 Boylston Ave. 206-981-7202

www.creativeblueprint.ca

Artist Cvnthia Linet takes a comprehensive look at gun ownership in the US today. The Gun Show exhibitio features 71 paintings and a live performance by the Raging Grannies at 6pm. One night only!

15 Saint John's Bar and Eate 719 E. Pike St. 206-245-1390

www.saintjohnsseattle.com Warm, glowing abstract paintings by Amelia Layton

Reed! On view through early February. 16 Refresh Frozen Desserts & Espre

1620 Broadway, Suite 100D 206-324-2517 www.refreshdesserts.com Star Wars, Mabuhay! Mixed media resin artist, James

Lawrence Ardeña awakens to show his work in Seattle after a deep hibernation. Vintage Star Wars artifacts and images of the Philippines during the American Colonial period from his personal collections are frozen in carbonite assemblages not to be missed.

818 E. Pike St. 206-397-3564

seattleciderbar.com
Drink and Draw: attendees are invited to use free drawing supplies to sketch live models, 7-8:30pm. A live model will be onstage along with a Gage drawing instructor. We provide materials; watch the artists at work or try your hand at creating your very own masterpiece! Live music to follow.

18 Luma Condominiums 907 E. Pike St. 206-749-5862

Jules Frazier is an award-winning fine art and auto: I razier Is au award-winning fine art and advertising photographer. Commissioned to create works for Luma Condominiums opening in June 2016, Jules will showcase her Frontier collection for this event.

1418 Broadway 206-734-7330

gilbertphoto.com

This month the studio is featuring Landscape photos by Steve Gilbert 5-9pm, refreshments provided.

20 Frame Central's Cloud Gallery

901 F. Pike St. 206-720-2054

www.framecentral.com John Bavaro: BrainTree. Layering brain scans, "paint" and images of trees results in stunning light box compositions which examine the connection between the brain's complex network and similar structures in

1417 10th Ave.
Conservation Ethic: A Lesson in the Commodification of Forests", a collection of installation works by Stefan Gonzales, 5:30-9:30pm.

1216 10th Ave. 206-323-0557

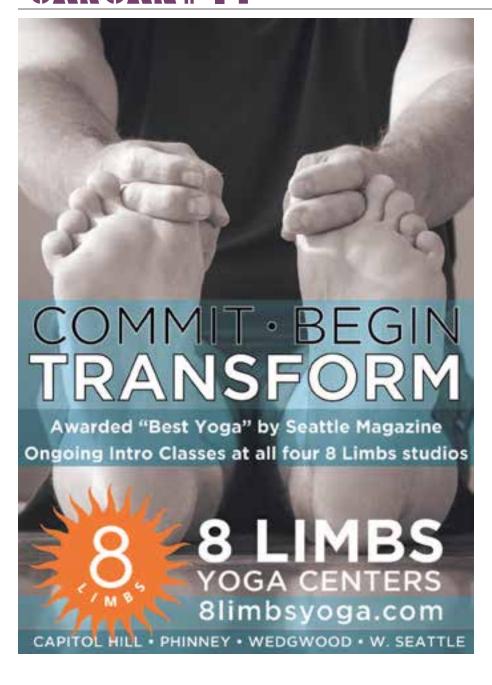
facebook.com/TheFactorySeattle
Tara Thomas's one night only show titled Power,
Love, Money, Sex, and Fame, celebrates best-selling
romance novelist Jackie Collins.

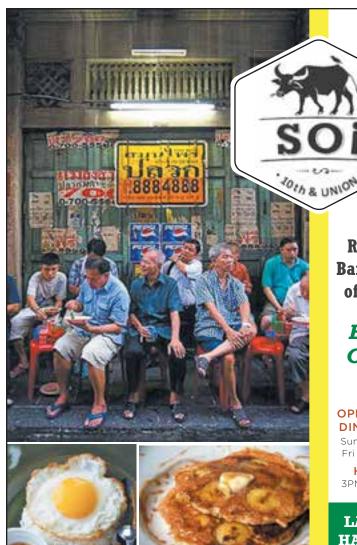
1000 East Madison, ste B

www.studioparadiso.org
Four on the Figure: Contemporary Depiction f the
Human Form. Featuring the work of David Allison,
Selma Waldman, Edwin Landis and Wyatt Landis.
Opening reception until 10pm.

24 Photo Center NW 900 12th Ave 206-720-7222

Salt/Water. The artists featured in Salt/Water—Kimberly Anderson, Susan Derges, Daniel Hawkins, and Meghann Riepenhoff—have found ways to use site-specific qualities of water, including the naturally occurring minerals & other idiosyncrasies, to create unique images.





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1205 E. Pike St. 206-588-1079

www.bluebirdseattle.com
End your night of art with ice cream! Featuring Kaillee Coleman, her new series 'This Canvas is Too Small' examines and explores the notions of tension and release. The pieces

are visceral studies in color; darkly playful attempts to capture something that refuses to stop moving, that refuses to remain. Come in after 9pm & get a second scoop free!

25 Loft 63 1205 E Pike St.

loft63.com Five new geometric pattern based art pieces by Seattle Artist, Sarah Teascale. Loft 63 features over 50 pieces of local art and photography at a range of prices. We feature Abstract on Canvas or Wood by Northwest & Seattle artists.

27 Cafe Pettirosso 1101 E Pike St. 206-324-2233

on FilM, by Isabela Garcia. A portrait collection of Instax and film photography displayed together to showcase the beauty of unedited female sensuality.

1103 E. Pike St. 206-568-4663

ww.retrofithome.com

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Group Exhibit featuring local artists. 6-9pm.

1318 B E. Pine St. 206-568-3545

1508 11th Ave. 206-709-9797

www.ariasalon.com New work by Chris Rollins! Block printed Seattle Show

1111 E. Pike St. 206-784-2990

www.cupcakeroyale.com Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools program has teamed with artists from the School of Visual Concepts to transform students' poems into gorgeous

letterpress designs hand-printed as broadside

1520 11th Ave, Door B
"Growth and Progress"Carolyn Hitt and Roberto
Hernandez expand Blue Cone Studios: Annalise Olsen
and Bailey Zahniser have a new work space, Aorta Gallery (Jeremy Decory, Ashley Nicholas, Katt Leeds) tattoos, lan Douglass Ferger moves up, and Michelle McCarthy shows off her jewelry designs. Join us for the evolution of studio life with tunes and treats. 5-9pm

32 Hugo House 1634 11th Ave. 206-322-7030

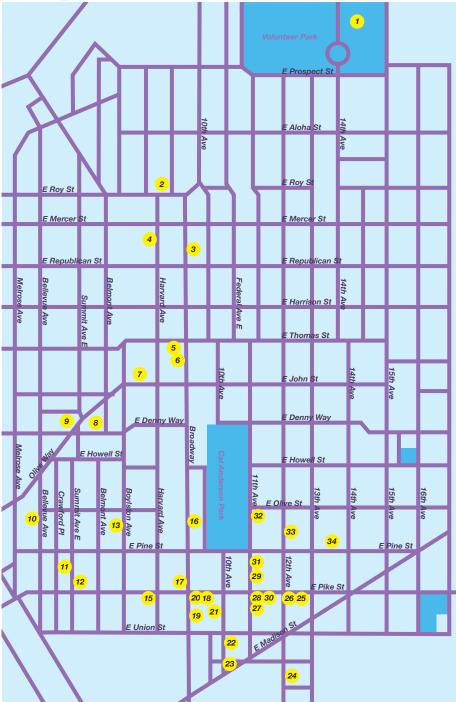
Hugohouse.org
Hugo House has a fantastic variety of events happening
throughout January. Visit hugohouse.org for more details.

33 12th Ave Arts

Art walk Happy Hour 5-6pm! Beverages available at our lobby bar. Start your art walk here and check out the upstairs gallery show Derationalized by James Love and our new Koi Pond mural by 179 in the downstairs hall.

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CapitolHillArtWalk.com



Check out StrangerThingsToDo.com/Art for up to the minute details!

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Bing Wright: Silver/Surface: James Harris Gallery, opening reception Sat Jan 7, 3-5 pm, free, through Feb 13

The Figure in Process: de Kooning to Kapoor, 1955 - 2015: Pivot Art + Culture, Tues-Sun, \$5, through Feb 28

Everyone's In: The Alice, Sat Jan 9, 6-9 pm, free

Maggie Carson Romano: Well: Glass Box Gallery, opening reception Sat Jan 9, 7-10 pm, through Jan 30

Maja Petrić: Studio 99, Redmond, free, through Feb 29

Matt Sellars: Energie: Platform Gallery, opening reception Thurs Jan 7, 6-8 pm, free, through Feb 13

Matthew Whitney: Movement in Kind: Mainframe, free, through Jan 9

Michelle de la Vega: SUCCESSION: Gallery4Culture, opening reception Thurs Jan 7, 6-8 pm, free, through Jan 28

The Potato Eaters: Greg Kucera Gallery, opening reception Thurs Jan 7, 6-8 pm, free, through Feb 20

Salt/Water: Photographic Center Northwest. Jan 7-April 3. free

Series, Sets and Stories: Davidson Galleries, opening reception Jan 7, 6-8 pm, free, through Jan 30

Tim Cross: Linda Hodges Gallery, opening reception Sat Jan 7, 6-8 pm, free, through Jan 30

Unstoppable: INCA, Wed-Sat, free, through Jan 22

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FOOD & DRINK

Meatless Monday

DON'T MISS If you, like nearly everyone else, have spent the better part of the holiday season overindulging in cookies, champagne toasts, and honey-glazed hams, now's the time to think about reining it in. Tallulah's, the neighborhood cafe on Capitol Hill whose menu leans toward lighter, vegetable-centric fare, is here to help. Every Monday, as part of the global Meatless Monday movement that reminds us that eating just a little less meat each week is better for both our health and the planet's health, Tallulah's creates a new vegetarian special. (They also go the extra step of donating 10 percent of the night's sales to local organizations like Seattle Tilth's Community Kitchen program, which brings people together to cook and share meals made from scratch.) It's a good antidote to a season of excess. (Tallulah's, Mon Jan 11, 4-11 pm) ANGELA GARBES

We also recommend...

\$10 Pizza Mondays: Cafe Lago, Mon Jan 11, 5 pm

Chocolate Happy Hour: Chocolopolis, Thurs Jan 7, 5-9 pm, free

Onibaba Ramen Pop-up: Miyabi 45th,

Wed Jan 6, 11:30 am-2 pm Paella Night: Terra Plata, Mon Jan 11, 5

Sunday Pig Roast: Bell + Whete, Sun Jan 10, 5 pm, \$24

Tiki Night: Rumba, Wed Jan 6

Wii Wednesdays: Sake Nomi, Wed Jan 6,

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

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mornings. fmontigue@gmail.com

LITHUANIAN WOMBAT BUKKAKE, Seattle's Premier nuisance rockers seek marsupial BUKKAKE, vocalist. Ready to spew? Purdue grads encouraged. We work twice as hard, and we're taken half as usly. Live in Burien? We wear MAXI SKIRT WET SUITS at gigs, mandatory. fmontique@gmail.com

LOOKING TO FORM WAVE COVER BAND. Bassist looking to form a new wave/dark wave/post punk band. Need voice guitars, drums, possible keys. If you like threat era of music, enerateartbyfish@gmail.com Let's rock!

SWING BAND SEEKS PLAYER: Purple Passion Swing Band plays gigs in the greater Seattle area, and is looking for a bass player. Like making people dance and giving back to the community? Email swing@rainbowcityband.com

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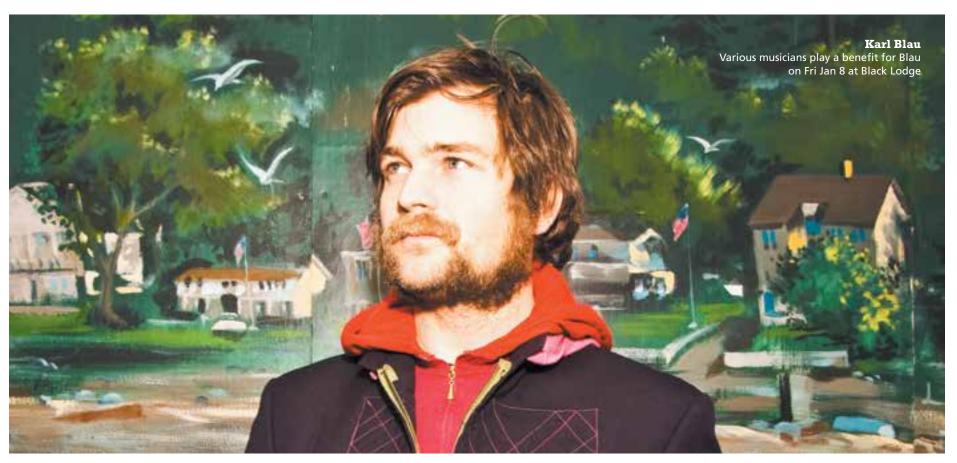






THINGS TO DO MUSIC Noteworthy Shows This Week

strangerthingstodo.com/music 💆 @SEAshows



WEDNESDAY 1/6

Meridian Arc, Sacred Signs, Spears, Liiight

(Sunset) If you haven't gotten hip yet to Meridian Arc (Terminal Fuzz Terror drummer Andrew Crawshaw's solo synth endeavor), do so posthaste. Better than most in the region. Meridian Arc applies his own forbidding take on Goblin and John Carpenter-esque horrorand sci-fi-film soundtrack styles. Crawshaw excels at creating a creeping dread and a pulsating tension that make you squirm in your rocket seat—although crafting a beautiful melody, as on "Beyond/Below," isn't beyond his grasp, either. Sacred Signs (aka Winter Parkin) generates enveloping, warped, electro-goth-folk drones that may appeal to fans of Death in June and Sol Invictus. It's heavy melancholy done with minimal melodrama. Liiight is This Blinding Light/Hypatia Lake guitarist/vocalist Lance Watkins going off on a more electronic tangent. His one piece on Bandcamp, "ASIS," reveals a head attuned to the orderly chaos of analog-synthesizer masters like Martin Rev, Robert Calvert circa FREQ, and Beaver & Krause. One eagerly anticipates more music from this intriguing side project. DAVE SEGAL

IAMNOBODI, Jamie Blake, HansmJustin

(Crocodile, all ages) Berlin's IAMNOBODI is a relentlessly prolific producer of jazzy soundscapes, chilled exotica, and triphop throwbacks. While the sound isn't exactly the most in-fashion at the moment, his style has a lived-in confidence that almost makes you wish you were bopping to your Café del Mar CDs in 1998 all over again. Not to say that it's all nostalgia: No less than the mighty Flying Lotus has cited IAMNOBODI in interviews as an inspiration. While his beats bang a bit

less avant-garde than Lotus's do, there are enough moments of cosmic beauty to be found in his productions that it's clear, homeboy is definitely SOMEBODI. KYLE FLECK

Ice Sword, Ox, Ghostblood

(Highline) Flagstaff, Arizona's Ice Sword are the kind of band to write a song about Dungeons & Dragons, but that might be a plus. In Seattle especially, fantasy metal has been experiencing a small but potent resurgence of popularity. When is the last time you checked out Substratum or Skelator? Those bands pack small houses, and Ice Sword may do the same with their potent mix of Manowar riffs and Summoning keyboards—at their best, they even sound a little like the Hammers of Misfortune, which should be reason enough to observe and report. Also, do yourself a favor and get there early enough to see Ox. Their synth-heavy brand of hooky, progressive black metal made a huge impression on this writer when they opened for Savonara at Chop Suey last year. JOSEPH SCHAFER

THURSDAY 1/7

Dead Tosa, Arrington de Dionyso and Oomung Varma, Hair and Space Museum

(Chapel Performance Space, all ages) New Hampshire's Dead Tosa creates chilly, desolate ambient music and Labradford-esque post rock that could soundtrack lonely walks on winter nights in the extreme Northeastern United States. We've no shortage of drone-esseurs in this country, but Dead Tosa is a new name (to me, at least) who deserves serious headphone time. Check out Five Synthetic Pieces on DT's Bandcamp for isolationist soundscapes whose icy, windswept tones somehow evoke comfort and beauty. The latest album by global-rock maverick Arrington de Dionyso, Sound Is the

Medicine, is a fiercely meditative excursion into trance jazz and mad minimalist exotica, powered by his circular-breathing technique on flute and Jew's harp and hyper-guttural throat singing. What phenomenal lung power and improvisational verve! Oomung Varma's music is as brazenly odd as his/her/ their name. OV's Soundcloud presents a mix of crisp down-tempo beats and bizarrely distorted voices and unsettling atmospheres, somewhere between Arca and post-Beaches and Canyons Black Dice. DAVE SEGAL

The Beatles Cover Night: Ten Miles Wide, Country Lips, Black Whales, Vaudeville Etiquette, Tomten, the Echo Echo Echoes, Corey J. Brewer

(Neumos) Now that the Beatles catalog is on Spotify, why do you need to see this show? For one, listening to music on your mobile device or computer is an awfully diminished experience. For two, it's always interesting to hear some of the best rock songs ever written interpreted by other artists. For three, you really should get out of the house once in a while and support local bands—even if they are covering tunes imprinted on the baby boomers' collective consciousness like a mop-topped tattoo instead of their own compositions. Lennon, McCartney, and Harrison penned more than 100 songs that will never die; their canon of ingenious, indelible melodic ideas challenge and reward any musician—including scores of jazz greats from the 1960s and '70s—who has the gumption to try to master them. DAVE SEGAL

Archivist, Minimal Violence, Mood Organ, Cleanser, DJ Degenerate

(Kremwerk) I was unfamiliar with the work of Archivist until last year's Decibel Fest, when he and his cohorts in the secondnature crew dominated the decks with minimal, eerie, and propulsive techno. Now

I'm a devotee, and he's surrounded tonight with like-minded, experimentally inclined Northwest weirdos. Vancouver's Minimal Violence takes a hammer to house and outsider electro conventions then welds them together in fascinating and rickety shapes. We've given Mood Organ plenty of love over the years, and with good reason: Timm Mason's project offers scintillating pixelated landscapes of ambient, synth exercises. and kraut textures. Opening things up are Cleaners and the reliably intriguing DJ Degenerate. **KYLE FLECK**

G-Eazy, A\$AP Ferg, Marc E. Bassy, Nef the Pharaoh

(WaMu Theater, all ages) Inexplicably, Bay Area bro G-Eazy continues to book openers far more talented than he is. Last time he was in town, it was E-40; this time, it's A\$AP Squad standout A\$AP Ferg, whose work, while uneven, is consistently more interesting than that of labelmate Rocky. "Shabba" and "Hood Pope" alone proved that Ferg's got the pop sensibilities to match his trap mentality, to thrilling results. And don't get it twisted, I'm not hating on G-Eazy. He's got some solid cuts in the repertoire, but much like A\$AP Rocky, maybe it's his taste in the music of others that's his greatest strength. The underrated Bay rapper Nef the Pharaoh opens, so don't sleep. "Big Tymin'" is a banger. **KYLE FLECK**

FRIDAY 1/8

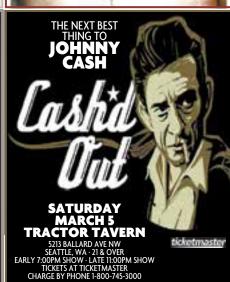
Karl Blau Benefit: iji, Your Heart Breaks, Heatwarmer, Cumulus, Generifus, Jordan O'Jordan, Angelo Spencer et les Hauts Sommet. Slashed Tires

(Black Lodge, all ages) A benefit for Anacortes-based K Records/Knw-Yr-Own-affiliated

Continued ▶

















1.7 THE BEATLES COVER NIGHT 1.9 GOOD CO + ELDRIDGE GRAVY & THE COURT SUPREME 1.14 TANGERINE + S 1.15 RYAN CARAVEO 1.20 THE BGP 1.21 LOVE, SEATTLE VOL. 2 1.23 THE RAMBLIN' YEARS IXAVAILABLE AT THE SUPPLIES IXAVAILABLE



THINGS TO DO MUSIC

indie-folk veteran Karl Blau, tonight's show is stacked with local Northwest favorites mostly in the realm of oddball indie pop and folk. A recent fire devastated the Anacortes Music Channel building, a community resource center and home to all of Blau's musical equipment and recording gear. Despite strong support already—raising more than \$25,000 so far-more is still needed for the space to recuperate. There is a tentative plan of making the new building home to Anacortes record store/local show space the Business. Tonight's lineup includes Your Heart Breaks' charming pop-punk-inflected tunes, prog-jazz lounge wizards Heatwarmer, and magical folk storyteller Jordan O'Jordan. BRITTNIE FULLER

Le Shat Noir, Kid Leather, Gang Cult, XURS

(Funhouse) If you prefer your bands to hold nothing sacred, you're going to love Le Shat Noir. Like 1980s-era Butthole Surfers and Big Black, these Seattle goons run roughshod over musical decorum with caustic, crunchy synth surges and reckless, ram-rodding rhythms. Shouted vocals about "hate pee," "doing the colostomy," and "Arctic beavers" show that they're comfortable reveling in your general disgust. Fellow locals Gang Cult feed Suicide-like tendencies and uncontrollable Devo-tional urges through a macabre garagerock filter that may give you Cramps. XURS classify themselves as "punk," but they're too interesting and unconventional for that limiting term, as their main influences—Wire and Black Flag—indicate. **DAVE SEGAL**

Natalie Wouldn't, the Famished, Millhous. Barbarinos

(High Dive) Ska is not dead—it's just a lot easier to ignore than it was in its 1990s heyday of bands like Reel Big Fish and Less Than Jake. There are a handful of bands in the Northwest scene courageous enough to carry on with the horns amid a landscape of people likely to consider their ska fandom just a deep dark secret—one of which is Natalie Wouldn't. Formed from the ashes of Moon Ska Records artist Easy Big Fella, Natalie Wouldn't lean toward a more soulful, rocksteady sound. Give them a listen and there's a chance you might not cringe (as much) the next time anyone utters the word "ska." **KEVIN DIERS**

SATURDAY 1/9

Car Seat Headrest, Naked Giants, Boyfriends

(Sunset) Five years and 11 albums ago, Bandcamp superstar Will Toledo brought Car Seat Headrest to life in the family car, his makeshift version of a home studio. In 2014, he relocated from Virginia to Seattle in time to form a band, sign to Matador (the label behind 2015's Teens of Style), and appear on an impressive number of top 10 lists. Some of his self-reflective songs, like the curiously titled "psst, teenagers, take off vour clo." are as short as 60 seconds, while others, like "Boxing Day," top out at 15plus minutes. Unless vou're John Coltrane reincarnated, a track that long could probably use an edit, but it exemplifies the way Toledo is following his own unique muse rather than engineering his material for maximum airplay. KATHY FENNESSY

Pony Time, Dirty Dirty, Asterhouse, Locomotive

(Vera. all ages) Because I've never been in a band, nor do I know how to play a musical instrument, I'm always super impressed at the music and sheer noise just two people can make. One of Seattle's most beloved two-pieces, garage punks Pony Time make an excellent racket with Luke Beetham on bass, guitar, and vocals and Stacy Peck smashing the drums. Dirty Dirty, another Seattle two-piece, make danceable post-punk. Both Asterhouse and Locomotive add one more member to become trios that make more throwback-sounding alt-rock. Overall, only 10 people total will be playing this bill, but it's sure to be grand. KELLY O

SUNDAY 1/10

WEEED, MTNS, X Suns

(Barboza) The three junior heshers in WEEED made quite the statement with 2014's Fena Shui Capital of the World, an alternately meditative and bone-crushing collection of psychedelic metal whose peaks rivaled any other ambitious stoners in Seattle. Their follow-up, July's Our Guru Brings Us to the Black Master Sabbath, is an even more accomplished batch of grass-fed, beefy jams and non-sequitur vocals from the trio. And speaking of new music: bass-and-drums death/noise duo MTNS are prepping a new release, the sprinklings of which I've heard promise more of the ominous, nerve-frazzling post-posthardcore they began mastering on previous album All Songs Are Spells. KYLE FLECK

MONDAY 1/11

Careful: This might be the grimmest entertainment night of the year.

TUESDAY 1/12

DeVotchKa with the Seattle Symphony

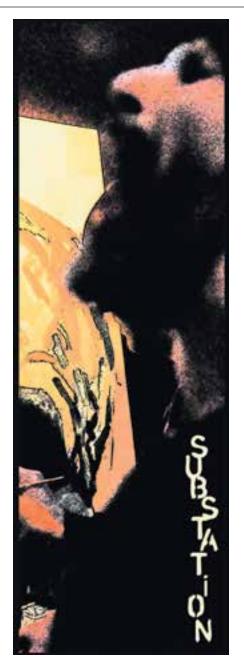
(Benaroya Hall, all ages) Art-poppy four-piece DeVotchKa have been tooling around for what seems like forever, and, as is sometimes the case with beloved indie bands, they have landed a night at the über-classy Benaroya Hall. The acoustics of the hall should greatly benefit the soaring, emotive, and possibly overly earnest rock of DeVotchKa, whose multi-instrumental proclivities and generally Slavic/Balkan bent should have been collecting royalties from Beirut for years now. (And Arcade Fire's Win Butler could kick in, as well, given the moves he's obviously been ripping from singer Nick Urata all these years.) Tonight, DeVotchKa will perform with the Seattle Symphony for an even brawnier orchestral sound. KYLE FLECK

Battalion of Saints, Scalped, Sick Ward, Gag, Lysol

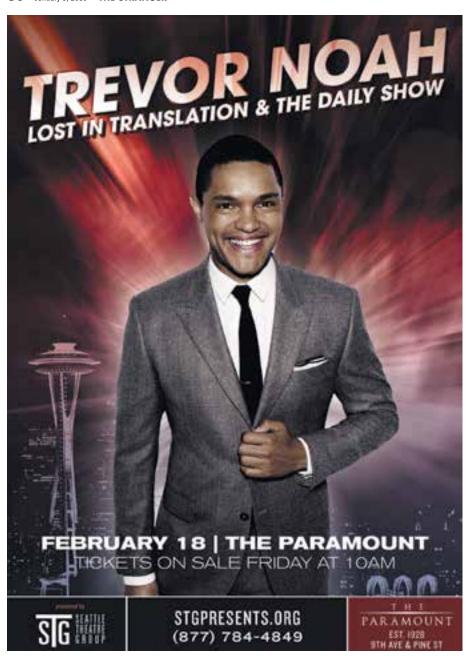
(Highline) San Diego's Battalion of Saints have been raining metallic hardcore flame from on high for more than 30 years. That ought to sound impressive, but let's be honest: Legendary California punk and metal acts roll through town all the time. and most of them suck. Well, here's a reason to be optimistic about the Battalion: They're currently signed to Greg Anderson's Southern Lord Records, the same label that puts out Black Breath's records—and they know what a good riff sounds like. In fact, Black Breath and Battalion of Saints shared a stage during the former's record-release party, and Batallion's set was very good, if a little short. This time they're headlining and gearing up to release their first album in 20 years. I expect them to be hungry and mean. as they should be. JOSEPH SCHAFER















THINGS TO DO MUSIC

All the Shows Happening This Week

strangerthingstodo.com/music > @SEAshows

★ = Recommended 🔥 = All Ages

WED 1/6

LIVE MUSIC

 88 KEYS Musicians' Jam: Jens Gunnoe, Guests, 8 pm, free

AOUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben

BUCKLEY'S IN BELLTOWN Live Music: Guests, 8 pm * O CROCODILE

IAMNOBODI, Jamie Blake, HansmJustin, 8 pm, \$13 DARRELL'S TAVERN Open

Mic: Guests, 9 pm, free EL CORAZON Jake McNeillie, Vito and the One Eyed Jacks, Dustin Saksek,

Floral Tattoo, 8 pm, \$6/\$8 O FIX COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic: Guests, 7 pm, free HIGH DIVE Shawn Smith, Guests

★ HIGHLINE Ice Sword, Ox, Ghostblood, 9 pm, \$8 **1&M CAFE** The Lonnie Williams Band, 8 pm, free **KELLS** Liam Gallagher **NECTAR** Ayron Jones,

Guests, 8 pm OHANA Live Island Music: Guests, 9:30 pm

OLD RAINIER BREWERY Rhythm Circle/Class: 8 pm OWL N'THISTLE Justin and Guests: 9 pm, free

PARAGON Two Buck Chuck, 8 pm. free

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Open Mic: 8:30 pm, free SOUND CHECK BAR & GRILL Open Mic: Guests,

Johnson, Alina Ashley

Nicole, The Co-Founder, Steve Fisher, 8 pm ★ SUNSET TAVERN

Meridian Arc, Sacred Signs, Spears, Liiight, 8 pm, \$8

★ ② JAZZ ALLEY Jeremy Pelt Power Quintet, Through Jan 6, 7:30 pm, \$26.50

SARAJEVO LOUNGE Gypsy Jazz Music: 8 pm

BALTIC ROOM Bollocks:

O CENTURY BALLROOM Bachata Intro Lesson & Dance: Swing Intro Lesson & Dance: 9 pm, \$8, 9 pm, \$8 **CONOR BYRNE** Rainier Soul Sounds: 9 pm, free

CONTOUR NuDe Wednesdays: Guests, 9 pm, free

HAVANA Wicked & Wild: DJ SoulOne, ZJ Redman, Selecta Element, free; \$5 after 10 p.m.

NEIGHBOURS Exposed: DJ Trent Von, DJ Dirty Bit PONY He's a Rebel: Guests

Q NIGHTCLUB Louis the Child, Electric Mantis, 9 pm, \$10

STUDIO SEVEN Electric

CLASSICAL

BRECHEMIN AUDITORIUM

THURS 1/7

LIVE MUSIC

AOUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben

BLUE MOON TAVERN Farm Hand Girls, Local Point, Optic Twin, 9 pm

* O CHAPEL

PERFORMANCE SPACE Dead Tosa, Arrington de Dionyso, Oomung Varma, 7:30 pm, suggested dona-tion \$5-\$15

CHOP SUEY Psymbionic, Rob Noble, Mugsy, JellyFyst, 8 pm, \$10

★ COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Mr. and Mrs. Something, Our Dead Fathers, Gina Belliveau, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

CONOR BYRNE Jessica Lynne, Sightseer, 8 pm O CROSSROADS SHOPPING

CENTER Open Mic: 6 pm, O DOWNPOUR BREWING

Open Mic Night: Guests, 5 * FRYE ART MUSEUM

Ishmael Butler and Nep Sidhu: 6 pm, Free GHOSTFISH BREWING COMPANY George Grissom,

HIGH DIVE The Hasslers, Blue Star Creeper. Lindstrom and the Limit,

Jim Marcotte & the Breakthrough, 8:30 pm, \$8 J&M CAFE True Romans, 8

O IAMTOWN Afro Latino Drum and Rhythm Circle Class: 7 pm

KELLS Liam Gallagher

* KREMWERK Archivist. Minimal Violence, Mood Organ, Cleanser, DJ Degenerate, 9 pm, \$6 THE MIX Yada Yada Blues

Band, 9 pm, free NECTAR Irukandji & the Legion of Brass, Body of Work, Guests, 8 pm, \$7

★ NEUMOS The Beatles Cover Night: Ten Miles Wide, Country Lips, Black Whales, Vaudeville Etiquette, Tomten, the Echo Echo Echoes, Corey J. Brewer, 8 pm, \$5

PARAGON Danny Godinez THE ROYAL ROOM LOW Tones, 8 pm

SCRATCH DELI Music Oper Mic: Free

SEAMONSTER Marmalade 10 pm

SUBSTATION The Debaucherauntes, The Insinuators, Sazerac, 8

TRACTOR TAVERN Seacastle, Temple Canyon, 8 pm, \$8

O THE TRIPLE DOOR THEATER The Motels, Star Anna, 7:30 pm, \$24/\$27

O VICTORY STUDIOS Stacy Jones, 7 pm, \$10

Theater & Nightclub **HOUSE 4 MIEKO BENEFIT** FLAMMABLE st's longest running hou going strong. With Brian Lyons SIX DEGREES OF KEVIN, SHAKIN COLLIDE-O-SCOPE

and Wesley Holmes # 510 SKYDOTTIR EPIC COOKIE'S 5th BIRTHDAY Featuring Skelator. With The Navins, Aailee, and Ref the Fox. #/ \$5











MOVE ALONG, BEER PONG

ave you played Presidents and Assholes? It's a card game that's a boozier version of Dai Hinmin—the Japanese game in which each person races to be the first to get rid of all their cards in order to become the winner or "president" in the following round. The president gets to make rules for the other players. When you play with my family, and my mom is the prez, she makes rules like "Wear a pair of granny-panty underwear," like my cousin Kris is modeling above. Kris was lucky—he got to wear them over his clothes. I had to wear the same pair on my head for an entire round. Love you, Mom! KELLY O



All Ages - \$15 adv. \$20 door. Tickets available at

Strangertickets.com/go/MattCosta STRANGER TICKETS











COCKTAIL COMPASS

FEATURED HAPPY HOUR!

SUN LIQUOR DISTILLERY 4-7pm Daily

SUN LIQUOR LOUNGE 5-7pm Daily



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THINGS TO DO All the Shows Happening This Week

★ ② WAMU THEATER

G-Eazy, A\$AP FERG, Marc E
Bassy, Nef the Pharaoh, 7:30
pm, \$25/\$35

JAZZ

★ BARCA Jazz at Barca: Phil Sparks Trio, Adam Kessler, Guests, 9 pm. free

O JAZZ ALLEY Peter White, Jan 7-10, 7:30 pm, \$32.50 **PINK DOOR** Bric-a-Brac:

• SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO Chris James Quartet, 7 pm, free

DJ

BALLROOM Throwback Thursdays: DJ Tamm of KISS fm, 9 pm

BALTIC ROOM Sugar Beat: DJ Bret Law, \$3

CONTOUR Jaded: Guests
★ HAVANA Sophisticated
Mama: DJ Nitty Gritty, DJ
Sad Bastard, free

JAZZBONES College Night: DJ Christyle, 9 pm

★ KREMWERK Archivist, Minimal Violence, Mood Organ, Cleanser, DJ Degenerate, 9 pm, \$6

★ MERCURY Sex.Wave: Guests, 9 pm, \$3/\$5 NEIGHBOURS Revolution:

DJ Marty Mar, Michael Kutt
OHANA '80s Ladies Night:
Q NIGHTCLUB Matt Lange,
Darrius, Conner Thomas, 8
pm, \$10

R PLACE Thirsty Thursdays

SAINT JOHN'S BAR AND EATERY Peel Slowly: DJ Squid Vicious, Fentar, DJ Kool Mike B, DJ Bargain

THE CARLILE ROOM Brian Yeager, DJ Food

TRINITY Beer Pong
Thursdays: Deaf!N!t, Chris
Herrera, Christyle, free

CLASSICAL

© BENAROYA HALL Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2: Seattle Symphony, \$21-\$121

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM Art of the Piano: Ladies Musical Club, Thurs, Jan 7, noon

FRI 1/8

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Dueling Piano Show: 8 pm, free AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA Sunder Heed, Uh Oh Eskimo, The Blue Tracks, 7 pm, \$8

★ ● BLACK LODGE Karl Blau Benefit Show: iji, Your Heart Breaks, Heatwarmer, cumulus, Generifus, Jordan O' Jordan, Lori Goldston, Slashed Tires, 8 pm, dona-

BLUE MOON TAVERNZeptology, Some Cats
from Japan, Odds & Sods,

9:30 pm

CAFE RACER Paper Dolls,

CHINA HARBOR Orquesta la Solucion, 9:30 pm, \$15

la Solucion, 9:30 pm, \$15 **CHOP SUEY** David Bowie's Birthday: Guests, 8 pm, \$5/\$10

★ EL CORAZON Le Shat Noir, Kid Leather, Gang Cult, XURS, 9 pm, \$6/\$8

O FREMONT ABBEY The Cloves: \$10

★ FRYE ART MUSEUM

Shabazz Palaces: Free

* HIGH DIVE Natalie
Wouldn't, The Famished,
Millhous, Barbarinos, 9

pm, \$6

LUCKY LIQUOR Das

Vültüre, Kled, 9 pm, \$7

NECTAR Da Beckoning,
Longstride, Zach's In
County, 8 pm, \$8

PARAGON The Fiasco

RE-BAR Quiver: Guests
THE ROYAL ROOM Cabaret
Royale: Dion Vox, 7 pm, \$10
SALSA CON TODO Salsa

SALSA CON TODO Salsa con Todo Drop-In Classes and Social Dance: Guests, 8 pm, \$5-\$20

SEAMONSTER Live Funk: Guests, 10 pm, free SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB

Piston Ready, Victoria Renee, Solar Sin, Guests, 9 pm, \$10

© STUDIO SEVEN Disciples of Dissent, 6 pm, \$10/\$12 SUNSET TAVERN Young in the City, Chris Staples, Silver Torches, 9 pm, \$10

O THIRD PLACE
COMMONS Coco Loco,
7:30 pm

TIM'S TAVERN The Fibs, A Clockwork Tragedy, The III Legitimates, 9 pm, \$7

TRACTOR TAVERN Maszer, Powwers, Evening Bell, 9 pm, \$10

• THE TRIPLE DOOR
THEATER Sarah Gerritsen,
Nick Foster, 8 pm, \$13/\$16

JAZZ

O COLLECTIVE VISIONS
GALLERY Pearl Django, 7
pm, \$20/\$24

O JAZZ ALLEY Peter White, Through Jan 10, 7:30 pm, \$32.50

DJ

ASTON MANOR Cabaret
Fridays: Guests

BALLROOM Rendezvous Friday: Guests, 9 pm

BALMAR Top 40: Guests, 9:30 pm, free

★ BALTIC ROOM Juicy: '90s & 2000's Old School Throwbacks: Fundamental Fridays: Guests, Shorthand, Pat Nasty. \$10

© CENTURY BALLROOM
Salsa Intro Lesson & Dance
8:30 pm, \$8-\$15

★ **CUFF** DJ Night: Rotating DJs, 10 pm, free

JAZZBONES Filthy Fridays: Guests, 11 pm, \$10 MERCURY Illumination: Major Tom

NEIGHBOURS Absolut Fridays: DJ Richard Dalton, DJ Trent Von, 9 pm

★ NEUMOS Bootie Seattle: New Year's Eve Do-Over Party!: Guests, 9 pm, \$10 OHANA DJ Night: Guests, 10 pm, free

OZZIE'S DJ Night: Guests, 9 pm, free

PARLIAMENT TAVERN DJ Kingblind, 8 pm PONY Shenanigans: DJ

Porq, DJ kKost

Q NIGHTCLUB CHVSM,

DNA, Henski, Kutt, PK, 10 pm, \$10

R PLACE Swollen Fridays:

9 pm **stout** DJ ePop, 9 pm

THE CARLILE ROOMTrickbag Record Party:
Guests

THERAPY LOUNGE Under Pressure: 9:30 pm, \$3 after 10:30 p.m.

TRINITY Fridays at Trinity Guy, VSOP, Tyler and DJ Phase

★ VERMILLION The Jam: Specs Wizard, DJ Able One, aMadman, free

CLASSICAL

O BENAROYA HALL

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2: Seattle Symphony, \$21-\$121

MEANY 267 Orpheus Ensemble, 7:30 pm © RESONANCE AT SOMA

TOWERS The Mosaic Brass Quintet, 8 pm, \$20-\$40

SAT 1/9

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Dueling Piano

Show: 8 pm, free

ALL PILGRIMS CHURCH
Matt Costa, Tobias the Owl,
8 pm, \$15/\$20

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA Tyler Edwards, Alki, Arthur James, 7 pm, \$8 CAFE RACER Cole Meyers, 8 pm

CENTRAL SALOON Ephrata, Amy Viking, Tie Dye Fighter, 8:30 pm, \$5

CLUB HOLLYWOOD
CASINO Johnny and the
Bad Boys, DJ Becka Page,
9 pm. \$5

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER
10 Million Rays of Light
Benefit Concert: Lara Lavi,
Gypsy Temple, Rory James,
Guests, 8 pm, \$15

© EDMONDS CENTER
FOR THE ARTS Kidstock!:
Recess Monkey, Alex Zerbe,
Godfrey Daniels, Guests,

9:45 am

© EL CORAZON Post
Rapture Party, Hand in the
Attic, Spontaneous Rex, 7
pm, \$8/\$10

© KIRKLAND
PERFORMANCE CENTER
Celtic Nights: 8 pm, \$35

Celtic Nights: 8 pm, \$35

LUCKY LIQUOR

Ridgeway, Spit in the Well,

Guests, 7 pm, \$8

NEUMOS Good Co, Eldridge Gravy & the Court Supreme, Guests, 8 pm, \$12 RENDEZVOUS Jeremy Windfield, Israeli Arms.

Grayman Geraldson, 9:30 pm, \$8

THE SHOWBOX Foreverland,

8 pm, \$18/\$22 SLIM'S LAST CHANCE Bad Pants, Shagnasty, Brad Yaeger, Trash Dogs, 9 pm SUBSTATION The Bleeding Romeos. 5 pm

★ SUNSET TAVERN Car Seat Headrest, Naked Giants, Boyfriends, 9 pm, \$10

© TED BROWN MUSIC Afro Latino Drum and Rhythm Circle/Class: 10 am **TIM'S TAVERN** Butt Dial,

Baby Gramps, Butterflies of Death, Bazooka Berry, \$10 TRACTOR TAVERN Wylie & The Wild West, 5 pm, \$15, Blackberry Bushes, 9

pm, \$10

THE TRIPLE DOOR

THEATER Rolling Stones

Extravaganza: Chris Friel

Orchestra, Blackie, 8 pm,

\$12/\$15

* O VERA PROJECT

Pony Time, Dirty Dirty,

Asterhouse, Locomotive,
7:30 pm, \$10/\$12

7:30 pm, \$10/\$12

WATERSHED PUB &

KITCHEN Live at the Shed:
Guests, 9 pm, donations

JAZZ

O JAZZ ALLEY Peter White, Through Jan 10, 7:30 pm, \$32.50

PARAGON Alex Dyring Duo
PARLIAMENT TAVERN Cross
Rhythm Trio, 9 pm
© THIRD PLACE

O THIRD PLACE COMMONS Climate

Change, 7:30 pm

DJ

95 SLIDE Good Saturdays: Sean Cee, Guests, 9:30 pm, free before 11 pm/\$10 after ASTON MANOR NRG Saturdays: Guests

BALLARD LOFT Hiphop Saturdays: DJ Pheloneous DJ Tamm of KISS fm, DJ Brett Michaels, 10 pm BALLROOM Sinful

BALLROOM Sinful Saturdays: Guests, 9 pm BALMAR Top 40 Night: Guests, 9:30 pm, free

BALTIC ROOM Crave
Saturdays: McClarron, Swel,
10 pm

BARBOZA Inferno: DJ Swervewon, Guests, 10:30 pm, \$5 before midnight/\$10 after BUCKLEY'S IN BELLTOWN
'90s Dance Party: Guests,

9 pm CENTURY BALLROOM Salsa Intro Lesson & Dance: Swing Intro Lesson & Dance: 7:30-11 pm. \$8-\$13. 8:30 pm-1:30

am, \$10-\$15

CHOP SUEY Dance Yourself
Clean: Guests, 9 pm, \$5;

free before 10:30 p.m. **CORBU LOUNGE** Saturday

Night Live: DJ BBoy, DJ

5 Star ★ CUFF DJ Night: Rotating DJs, 10 pm, free

FOUNDATION Jordan Suckley, 10 pm, \$7.50/\$15 HAVANA Havana Social: Nostalgia B, Curtis, Soul One, Sean Cee, DV One, 9

pm, \$15

KREMWERK Bottom Forty XVIIII Record Release Party: N.D.S.F., Austin Stone, Residents, 10 pm

★ LO-FI Emerald City
Stolen Mac,
Gene Balk, Marc Muller,
Alvin Mangosing, Mike
Chrietzberg, Brian Everett,
George Gell, Mike "MP3s
Forever" Nipper, 9 pm, \$10

MERCURY Machineries of Joy: DJ Hana Solo, \$5 MONKEY LOFT Drop: Jaymz Nylon, Binary Bits,

Guests, 10 pm
★ NECTAR Juan Maclean,
Marcus Marr, PressHa,
Blueyedsoul, 8 pm, \$13

NEIGHBOURS Powermix: DJ Randy Schlager OHANA DJ Night: Guests, 10

pm, free
OZZIE'S DJ Night: Guests, 9
pm, free

PONY Glitoris:
R PLACE Therapy Saturday:

DJ Flo'w

RUNWAY CAFE DJ David

N. free

SARAJEVO LOUNGEEuropean/Balkan/Greek
Night: Guests **STOUT** DJ ePop, 9 pm

SUBSTATION Deeper Roots: Uniting Souls, Guests, 10 pm

THE CARLILE ROOM DJ Smitty THERAPY LOUNGE This

Modern Love: Guests

TRINITY Saturdays at

Trinity: DJ Nug, DJ Kidd,
Rise Over Run, Guests, \$15,
free before 10 pm

CLASSICAL

© BENAROYA HALL Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2: Seattle Symphony, \$21-\$121

© TOWN HALL Bach Intimacies: Early Music Guild, 8 pm, \$20-\$39, Monica Huggett, Alexander Wiemann, 8 pm, \$20-\$39

SUN 1/10

LIVE MUSIC

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free ★ BARBOZA Weeed, MTNS,

X Suns, 8 pm, \$8

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER
Ings Thousands Honey

Ings, Thousands, Honey Noble, 8 pm, \$8/\$10 © CROCODILE Wall of

Ears, 6:30 pm

EL CORAZON Yidhra, Skies
Below, Githyanki, 8 pm,
\$5/\$7

KELLS Liam Gallagher LITTLE RED HEN Open Mic Acoustic Jam with Bodacious Billy: Guests, 4 pm

NECTAR Siouxsie and the Banshees, Guests **SUBSTATION** Jim Marcotte & the Breakthrough,

& the Breakthrough,
Jim Marcotte & the

Breakthrough, Guests,
10 am

Showcase: Guests

THE TRIPLE DOOR
THEATER School of
Rock Bellevue Performs
Motown: School of Rock, 6
pm, \$12/\$15

O WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Celtic Nights: Spirit of Freedom: 5 pm, \$16-\$54

JAZZ

THE ANGRY BEAVER The Beaver Sessions: Guests,

DARRELL'S TAVERNSunday Night Jazz Jam:

Guests, 8 pm, free

HARISSA Sunday Bossa
Nova: Dina Blade, 6 pm,

• JAZZ ALLEY Peter White, Through Jan 10, 7:30 pm, \$32.50

SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO Shuga Sundays: Eric Verlinde, Guests, 7:30 pm

★ ② TULA'S Jim Cutler Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$8

* VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Ruby Bishop, 6 pm, free, The Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30 pm, free

DJ

BALTIC ROOM
RESURTECTION SUNDAYS: DJ
Shane, Jade's Pain, 10 pm
CONTOUR Broken
Grooves: Guests, free
CORBU LOUNGE Salsa
Sundays: DJ Nick, 9 pm
THE HIDEOUT DJ Night:

Guests
MERCURY Interzone: DJ
Coldheart, 9 pm, \$5
NEIGHBOURS Noche
Latina: DJ Luis, DJ Polo

PONY TeaDance: DJ El Toro, Freddy King of Pants, 4 pm

R PLACE Homo Hop: Guests

★ RE-BAR Flammable: DJ Wesley Holmes, Xan Lucero, Guests, 9 pm, \$10

★ REVOLVER BAR No Exit: DJ Vi, Sun, noon

CLASSICAL

O HALLER LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Musical Excursions: Chamber Music by Händel, Fauré, and Schumann: Guests, 3 pm, \$20 suggested donation

★ ② ST. MARK'S
CATHEDRAL Compline
Choir, 9:30 pm, free

UW KANE HALL Littlefield Organ Series: Robert Bates, 3 pm

MON 1/11

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Blues On Tap, 7 pm, free

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO
Jerry Frank, 6 pm, free
CAPITOL CIDER
EntreMundos, 9:30 pm
CONOR BYRNE Bluegrass
Jam: 8:30 pm, free

KELLS Liam Gallagher
LUCKY LIQUOR Sid Law
PARLIAMENT TAVERN
Rippin' Chicken, 9 pm

Rippin' Chicken, 9 pm
TRIPLE DOOR
MUSICQUARIUM LOUNGE
Crossrhythm Sessions, 9
pm, free

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Jam Jam: Mista' Chatman, DJ Element, 9 pm

★ BAR SUE Motown on Mondays: dj100proof, Supreme La Rock, DJ Sessions, Blueyedsoul, 10 pm, free

© CENTURY BALLROOM Salsa Social: 8:30 pm, \$8 **★ THE HIDEOUT** Industry Standard: Guests, free

★ MOE BAR Moe Bar Monday: DJ Swervewon, Jeff Hawk, DJ Henski, 10 pm, free

★ RE-BAR Collide-O-Scope: Guests, 6:30-11 pm, \$7

TUE 1/12

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Seatown Allstars, 8 pm, free

• AMBER RESTAURANT Folias, 6 pm, \$10 for tango class and practice/\$5 dance only/free to watch

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben

★ **②** BENAROYA HALL DeVotchKa, 7:30 pm, \$32-\$47

CAFE RACER Jacobs Posse

★ CHOP SUEY Breezy

Manner, DJ Veins, Chris

Martin, Aubrey Nehring, Portable Shrines, 8 pm CONOR BYRNE Country Dancing Night: 9 pm FREMONT ABBEY The

Round: \$10

★ HIGHLINE Battalion
of Saints, Scalped, Sick
Ward, GAG, LYSOL, 9 pm,
\$10/\$12

J&M CAFE All-Star Acoustic Tuesdays: Guests, 9 pm, free

KELLS Liam Gallagher THE MIX The 350s, 8 pm PARAGON You Play Tuesday: Guests, 8 pm, free

SEAMONSTER McTuff Trio, 11 pm. free

• THE SHOWBOX JD McPherson, Honeyhoney, 8:30 pm, \$21.75/\$25

★ SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Baby Ketten Karaoke: 9 pm, free

TIM'S TAVERN Open Mic: Linda Lee, 8 pm TRACTOR TAVERN Whiskey Shivers, Goodnight, Texas, 8 pm,

THE TRIPLE DOOR
THEATER Stu Hamm Band,
7:30 pm, \$23-\$33

JAZZ

\$12

O JAZZ ALLEY Martin Taylor, Jan 12-13, 7:30 pm, \$29.50

OWL N'THISTLE Jazz with Eric Verlinde: 10 pm, free

★ THE ROYAL ROOM
Delvon Lamarr, 10 pm

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Drum & Bass Tuesdays: Guests, 10 pm

★ BLUE MOON TAVERN Blue Moon Vinyl Revival Tuesdays: DJ Country Mike, A.D.M., Guests, 8 pm, free

© CENTURY BALLROOM West Coast Swing Social: Tango Class & Dance: 8:30-11 pm, \$8, 9 pm, \$8

* CHOP SUEY Breezy
Manner, DJ Veins, Chris
Martin, Aubrey Nehring,
Portable Shrines, 8 pm
CONTOUR Burn: Voodoo,

CORBU LOUNGE Club
NYX Wave & Goth: 10 pm,
\$5; free before 10:30 p.m.
* HAVANA Real Love '90s:

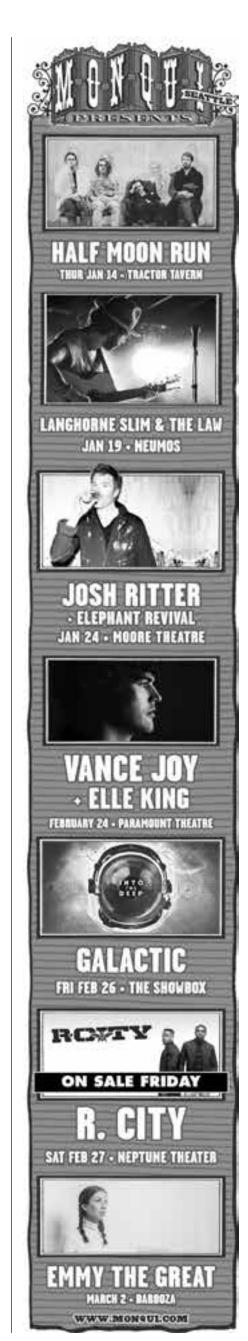
★ HAVANA Real Love '90s BlesOne, Jay Battle, \$3; free before 11 p.m. MERCURY Die: Black

Maru, Major Tom, \$5

NEIGHBOURS Pump It Up:
Vogue: DJ Lightray
ROB ROY Analog
Tuesdays: Guests, free

CLASSICAL

O MEANY HALL Garrick Ohlsson, 7:30 pm, \$37-\$42 NAKED CITY BREWERY & TAPHOUSE Baroque Band of Brothers: 7 pm, \$20



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MONDAY 1/17 VENOM INC

NECROPHAGIA + LESBIAN + WOUNDED GIANT

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THE BAD TENANTS + TURTLE T
+ DJ INDICA JONES

FRIDAY 1/8
SUNDER HEED
UH OH ESKIMO + THE BLUE TRACKS

SATURDAY 1/9
TYLER EDWARDS
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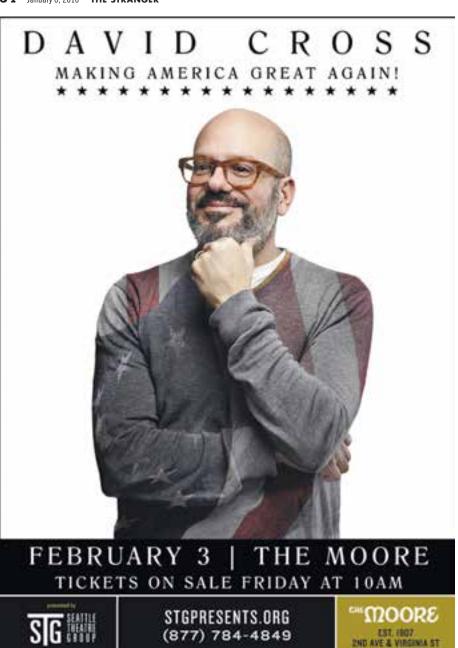
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Pitschouse All Ages

1/12 TUESDAY



Cello X @ The Back Bar All Ages

1/14 THURSDAY



Thraxxhouse Presents::

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Phase Springs Eternal,
Horse Head, Snuff Redux, Lucas All Ages

1/15 FRIDAY



BoomBox "Bits & Pieces Tour" Ryan Bauer 21+

1/16SATURDAY



Customs & The Crocodile Present::

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I Spent the Holidays Listening to Billboard's Top 20 Singles of 2015

It Was Appalling

BY DAVE SEGAL

spend 99 percent of my time listening spend 99 percent of m, the to music about which most people don't know or care. I assiduously avoid chart pop's mansion and the endless smorgasbord of cotton-candy-on-white-bread sandwiches it serves while its overlords expect you to smile till your face cracks. So who better to assess the 20 most popular songs of 2015, per industry bible Billboard? Let's rue this:

20. "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten

Young attractive white woman sings about vengeance in general, universal terms, using the pensive-verse/rousing-chorus formula, bolstered by clap-enhanced beats. Did your chest swell on the string-augmented climaxes or your throat lump when everything dropped out except the pianist delicately tickling the instrument's far right keys? Of course it did; you're being manipulated by master craftspeople who want to you to relate, above all else.

19. "Where Are Ü Now" by Skrillex and **Diplo with Justin Bieber**

On this cut by two of EDM's most bankable stars, Biebs is in panty-dropper mode, tremulously singing about an absent lover. The inevitable bass drop is rather tepid by Skrillexian standards, and the tentatively jaunty accelerated-rhythm part doesn't really get the pulse racing. In a nutshell, this is a sappy quasi-night-bus joint with a bratty frontman operating at "simmer." There's no madness to this meh-thod.

18. "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift

Fuuuucckkk. The video for this song has more than 1.2 billion views and the ad before it hypes Swift's 1989 Tour: Smells like world domination. Swedish über-producer/writers Max Martin and Shellback have manufactured a crisp, eminently danceable rhythm over which Swift dynamically flexes her buoyantly sassy voice, vanquishing her post-breakup blues. "Shake It Off" is what happens when Scandinavians and an ex-country superstar appropriate urban tropes. Should funk be this squeaky clean? Not in my utopia. Can billions of viewers be wrong? Oftentimes, But "Shake It Off" is undeniably infectious, and one feels like the most noxious curmudgeon for begrudging its charms.

17. "Want to Want Me" by Jason Derulo

Billy Joel-scented new-wave rock melds with modern R&B lover-man sentiments sung in a near-ecstatic falsetto by Mr. Derulo, whose name connotes white dude rather than black guy. Whatever the case, JD exudes a suave, cheerful desperation for a girl whom he wants to "get up next to." For better results, pull up Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing."

16. "Lean On" by Major Lazer & DJ Snake

What happened, Diplo? Back in 2004, you issued a down-tempo sampledelic classic titled Florida and rocked parties with feral funk in Hollertronix. Now you're pandering to backward-ball-cap-wearing bros and the obtuse women who love them. In the Diplo pantheon, "Lean On" is a subdued trifle, its vaguely

Caribbean sway, stodgy beats, and defiant female vocals by Danish diva MØ barely causing a ripple of excitement.

15. "Bad Blood" by Taylor Swift (featuring Kendrick Lamar)

T-Swizzle's incursion into hiphop is a bigbudget blockbluster. Kendrick Lamar is brilliantly mercurial, as usual, within this basic orchestral-pop/hiphop hybrid that depicts the protagonist dealing with post-relationship ill will. Why are all these dudes hurting Tay? She seems nice.

14. "Take Me to Church" by Hozier

Sincerity fetishists, rejoice! Here's your goddamn anthem. Irish singer/guitarist Hozier distills that Christian-y folk rock that's been gaining mindshare since Fleet Foxes burdancers feel like their odds of carnal action are 100 percent. Holds up to multiple listens/ fucks/snorts, I'd conjecture.

11. "Cheerleader (Felix Jaehn Remix Radio Edit)" by OMI

More heteronormative, patriarchal bullshit albeit sun-kissed, Auto-Tuneful, hand-percussion- and trumpet-powered heteronormative, patriarchal bullshit. This laid-back house-music paean to OMI's "queen" and "cheerleader" comes off as oppressively unctuous.

10. "The Hills" by the Weeknd

"I just fucked two bitches before I saw you/ You don't have to do it at my tempo" won't win Abel Tesfaye any feminist points, and the track itself is a ponderous bastard, trap bass like an airborne toxic event and beats like a





geoned and makes it even more palatable to casual music consumers. However, the video for this song focuses on religious intolerance toward homosexuality, which makes it progressive for a mainstream smash.

13. "Love Me Like You Do" by Ellie Goulding

Songs like this convince one that pop music exists to lift the spirits of bland people as innocuously as possible. Songs like this make one want to bomb suburban malls. (Don't worry—I'm too technologically inept to carry out that act.)

12. "Can't Feel My Face" by the Weeknd

Sumptuous, bumptious funk that sounds like Bruno Mars, but with a more girthful bass line. "Can't Feel My Face" is perfectly poised, radio-ready passion synthesized into a focus-group-tested slice of well-modulated coke-party-sex music that makes listeners/

stalker's footsteps. "The Hills" is a wartsand-all seduction song ("When I'm fucked up, that's the real me"), but it's a flaccid ordeal

9. "Earned It (Fifty Shades of Grey)" by the Weeknd

This guy again, now in oleaginous ballad guise, one of my least favorite styles. Sure, the Weeknd can sing, expressing desire with nuance and beaucoup emotion. But the song is a stilted bolus of grandiosity, inspiring more senescence than tumescence, if I may be so bold.

8. "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" by Silentó

"Do the stanky leg/Now break your legs" (repeated six times each) is a great lyric, much better than anything Smokey Robinson or Curtis Mayfield ever wrote. Yep. It's cool that the charts have room for sparse rap tunes that consist of an MC asking people to watch him do various dance moves, but do they have

to be as inane as "Watch Me"? Five consecutive plays of this will induce suicidal ideation in the hardest motherfucker.

7. "Blank Space" by Taylor Swift

All Swift videos cost more than you earn in a year (or multiple years). This may be an insurmountable obstacle to enjoying her music. "I'm a nightmare dressed like a daydream," she coyly sings while relating how romance inevitably turns her into a crazy woman. "Boys only want love if it's torture," she cautions, making me wonder why someone of her station moves in such sordid circles. The music is saccharine, clunky dance pop that Madonna would discard for being too trite.

6. "Shut Up + Dance" by Walk the Moon

INXS and Rick Springfield circa "Jessie's Girl" had a baby... and it was Walk the Moon. They should've aborted. "Shut Up + Dance" is strenuously anthemic in that try-hard normcore way that gives your ears a hernia. Just STFU.

5. "Sugar" by Maroon 5

Super-pro Californian funk pop with falsetto vocals by a group of status-quo white bros whose generic quality will make you yearn for the bold innovations of Robin Thicke. "Sugar" is 21st-century, major-label sonic fructose metabolizing into profit.

4. "Trap Queen" by Fetty Wap

Plinky, materialistic modern rap hits like "Trap Queen" spur me into stereotypical old-man rants about how hiphop peaked with Public Enemy, Gang Starr, and Tribe. Just because that view is cliché doesn't mean it's not ablaze with truth. I miss the filthy funkiness and lyrical skills of Golden Age™ rap—sue me.

3. "See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa

Charlie Puth sings a melodramatic ballad, and then Wiz Khalifa spits heartfelt words about the late Furious actor Paul Walker over a rugged, martial funk rhythm. Wash, rinse,

Should funk be this squeaky clean? Not in my utopia. Can billions of viewers be wrong? Oftentimes.

repeat, raise hands for the "OH OH OH!" interlude. It is not unmoving.

2. "Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran

Milquetoasty UK singer-songwriter proves yet again to be his generation's Mick Hucknall with a medium-rare stab at Marvin's "Let's Get It On" vibe. Simply Green, amirite?

1. "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson

Exceptional homage to early-'80s funk, fusing the Time's "Wild & Loose" with Zapp's "Doo Wa Ditty." Bruno Mars channels Michael Jackson at his toughest, and the music is so righteous, it nullifies the disposable lyrics.

In sum: Fuck (most of) this top 20.

There's more radical pop musculature in one minute of Donna Summer/Giorgio Moroder's "I Feel Love" or David Essex's "Rock On" than in the entire running times of these corporate conformists. Sorry if this sounds predictable, but with music critics increasingly embracing the "If it has nine-figure YouTube views, it must be good" ethos, I have to call bullshit. A lot of embarrassing mental acrobatics are required to justify mediocreto-awful music these days, and I can't in good conscience cosign.

I look forward to a happy new year of ignoring the hits. ■







WHY DON'T I LIKE ______? A NEW COLUMN ABOUT ONE MUSIC FAN'S



STYX Whenever I get weary and I've had enough.

Canon Fodder: An Introduction

BY SEAN NELSON

Kid A: "What's your

favorite band?"

Kid B: "Styx."

Kid A: "Styx sucks."

Kid B: "You suck."

Fin.

any of the best conversations of my life have been about music. Reflection reveals that the best of the best have always been choruses of agreement—mutual appreciation for this band or that songwriter magnified, elucidated, and stacked up,

tongue-in-groove-style, into monuments. The element of competition lies in who can declare their love more perfectly.

And though I always defend the virtue of argument, the perfect illustration of the essence of most musical disagreements can be found in the following exchange, which I witnessed on an elemen-

tary school playground in 1983. Literally.

Kid A: "What's your favorite band?"

Kid B: "Styx."

Kid A: "Styx sucks."

Kid B: "You suck."

Fin.

'Twas ever thus, and it's getting thusser every day thanks to social media and the steady collapse of civil human interaction it has wrought. But what does writing about music have to do with civil human interaction?

It's a fair question.

Though I may look like a coltish teenager, I find I have been writing about music for some percentage of my livelihood (between 10 and 80 percent, depending on circumstances) for 22 years now. And I'm pleased to find that the proportions of what one might call my "archives" (daubing away a few tears) generally follow those of the conversations I alluded to above: The most and the best of what I've written (here come those tears again) has been an effort to find words for the feeling of awe and rapture that still attend my experience of great music.

Aaaaaand then there are all the Styx sucks/You suck-es. Which are fine. But I remember the feeling when Lou Reed died in 2013 that the last thing I'd written about him was a slam of his Metallica collaboration, *Lulu*, entitled "Master of Bation." It was kind of funny. But in retrospect, it seemed small in light of Reed's astonishingly complex life and work. Not that he would ever have known or cared. But I did. I do.

Over the past two decades, the impulse to talk shit about bands and the people who like them—the impulse, that is, to delegitimize other people's pleasure (yeah, you know me)—has largely, though not entirely, disappeared from my critical consciousness. So has the anger I used to feel rise up into my mouth like thrush when unworthy artists got a free

ride on the respect wagon. This has plenty to do with getting older, and with having a parallel (mostly—the sides touch a lot less than I thought they would) career as a sometimes musician. Plus therapy, medication, resignation, assimilation, etc.

It also has to do with the particular shape of online argument about

music, which, like all forms of online discourse, has become simultaneously hugely personal and weirdly abstract. In our recent Year in Music 2015 issue, I wrote this:

Social media and streaming services allow us to share and share alike, but they also make it easy to do so without listening. I don't mean "really" listening or listening closely—I mean literally listening at all. In the same way people are forever commenting on and sharing news-feed stories without actually reading past the headline, I suspect the phenomenon of "this"-ing new songs by given artists is increasingly a function of self-decoration, affiliation without obligation, an Instagram heart followed by an unkind Tinder swipe. In every conceivable sense, it costs you nothing.

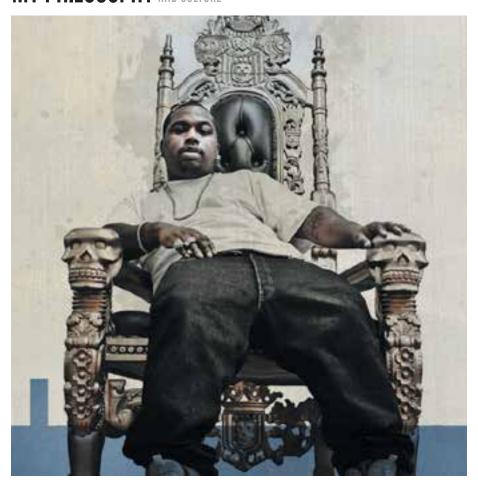
I think caring about music should cost something, and it's worth striving to articulate objections to art and artists that maintain a measure of respect for their endeavors. Even and especially when I don't viscerally feel it.

So if the next year goes according to plan, Why Don't I Like ___? will be a weekly column dedicated to the premise that I simply can't get behind a number of canonical artists, whose greatness is generally agreed upon by most sane adults.

I hope it will matter that the title of the column is built in the form of a question and not a declaration. In many cases, I suspect it will take the form of a confession as well.

There are many ways not to like music. I'm hoping this one will be productive. ■

MY PHILOSOPHY A COLUMN ABOUT HIPHOP AND CULTURE



FATAL LUCCIAUNO More beefs-per-minute in "Domestic Violence."

Stuck in **Second Gear**

BY LARRY MIZELL JR.

Shit's ugly—and if

you actually thought

we were gonna leave

any of that in 2015,

then I got some stolen

Paiute land for you to

occupy.

f you were waiting for the first white nonsense of 2016, you sure didn't have to wait long. Pissed-off peckerwoods with big-ass guns took over an empty federal wildlife refuge building like some true American Heroes, right here in the Great Northwest. Among them is the son of one Cliven Bundy, the one-time Fox News dar-

ling caught on tape talkin' 'bout "the nigra," like he just sprang out of Tarantino's skull, Athena-style.

Lil' Bundy is clearly gassed off the Constitution (a fickle bitch if ever there was one), white privilege (how you mad about "stolen land" when it was literally stolen from Native Americans to begin with), and the juice his

daddy got from backing down Uncle Sam in Nevada—but for now, him and his mossie are bicken back without the boys on his helmet. How is that possible?

It's obviously an insult on top of injury (after injury, after mortal fucking injury) that armed white men—literally the worst—can threaten to kill authorities and occupy shit at will while black folks have been getting gassed, kidnapped, and murdered, without consequence, on the regular, for doing far, far less. (For protesting, for shopping, for driving, for playing!) And yeah, we're incensed that these guys who call themselves "patriots" and a "militia" are not called what they are, which is terrorists. But I'm thinking, this time, though—how exactly would it help if these guys were called that? Answer: about as much as the video of a cop shooting

a 12-year-old to death would help get that cop indicted. About as much as the limits of credulity could stretch to explain how Sandra Bland hung herself with a trash bag.

Like, I don't want Feds and police to swoop in and do them like they do us, I want them to stop doing us like that! Or do we think that merely naming this evil will shame

> these white terrorists who feel so emboldened (whether they rep NAS-CAR or a badge) into acting like humans-or those good Americans who let all this happen on their watch? They'll still get a Whopper with cheese if they want even Dylann Roof got to have it his way.

> Shit's ugly-and if you actually thought we were gonna leave any of

that in 2015, that it wasn't in fact going to get worse this year, then I got some stolen Paiute land for you to occupy.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, beef rules the day once again. I stay hearing rumors of shake-ups and beef, and then Fatal Lucciauno—the rapper most fucked over by racist (and wrong) local music-industry politics over the last decade by my count—releases a kinda-intense eight-minute dis called "Domestic Violence," aimed at Neema and a local white rapper whom I truly can't take seriously because—seriously—he named himself after a character on Friends. Really? No one told me life was gonna be this way.

Visit the My Philosophy archives at THESTRANGER.COM/MUSIC





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(1/6) Jamie Merisotis with **Blair Taylor**

Deploying the 21st Century Workforce'

(1/7) Morton Kondracke

Does America Need Another Jack Kemp?

(1/9) Seattle Baroque Orchestra: Monica Hugget and Alexander Weimann Bach Intimacies: A Duo Recital

(1/11) Sheldon Solomon Overcoming the Fear of Death

> (1/12) Marc Goodman Combating Tomorrow's Cybercrimes

(1/13) Kara Platoni Making Sense of Human Perception

(1/14) Women's Funding Alliance: Debbie Walsh, Liz Berry and Lisa Shin Political Gender Watch 2016

(1/15) Black Lives Matter in Hip-Hop Local Artists and Community Members

(1/17) The Art of Appropriation Behind the Scenes of 'Disgraced'

(1/18) Elie Sternberg

Unlocking the 'Brain's Hidden Rationale'

(1/18) Bee Wilson 'How We Learn to Eat'

(1/19) Nick Licata

Take Power, Become a 'Citizen Activist'

(1/20) Lakeside Arts: **Music in the City**

(1/21) Education Lab Ignite Education Lab

(1/21) Patti Warashina with **Gary Faigin** Oh, These Women (of Clay)

(1/22) Planned Parenthood It's Our Right: 43 Years of Legal Abortion

(1/23) Saturday Family Concerts Swil Kanim

(1/25) Oliver Morton Geoengineering A Way Out of Glabal Warming

(1/26) Eric Weiner Place, Creating the Tools for Genius

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HUGO HOUSE Voted "Building Most Likely to Crumble Before Its Own Demolition," 2016.

Hugo House Makes a Good Move—To First Hill, Temporarily

Don't Even Start with Your Knee-Jerk "Oh My God, They're Tearing Down Hugo House, What Is Happening?" Rant

BY RICH SMITH

ugo House—the writing center that has existed in a gray-green house looking out on Cal Anderson Park for as long as anyone can remember—is moving. Beginning in June of 2016, it will partner with the Frye and operate out of a multipleoccupant residence built by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle on the corner of Terry and Columbia.

Hugo House will make use of its proximity to the Frye by holding its full schedule of readings there, while also using the new space, Elliott Bay Book Company, and the Sorrento Hotel for additional events. Meanwhile, the old funeral home that currently houses the literary organization will be demolished in June. It will be an event. Hugo House cofounder Frances McCue, who's working with filmmaker Ryan Adams on a full-length documentary about her life and times at Hugo House called Where the House Was, will have a camera crew there to film the teardown of the adorably homely home. There will be "lawn chairs lined up," she told me in an interview about the project, which, you should know, is in no way officially affiliated with Hugo House. McCue told me that she doesn't want the documentary of the property's destruction to be a "sad sack nostalgic" film about the property itself: "That building is done; it's

Trying to portray the destruction of a rickety old building that aesthetically aligns with the idea of the rough-but-lovable Seattle of yore as NOT nostalgic sounds like a challenge. And even if the film doesn't turn out to be a drooping sack of nostalgia that feeds

dogmatic antidevelopment sentiments, it's difficult to resist the urge to generally curse the Solowheeling tech set and the developers who build Tupperware condos for them. But from what I can tell from speaking to her, Where the House Was will ultimately be much more about McCue's understandable nostalgia than the literary organization she cofounded, which makes sense. She held a memorial service for her husband in that house. However, and as far as the rest of us are concerned, I can hear the "There goes the neighborhood" refrains echoing around Capitol Hill and in my own head already, and I'm already annoved by them.

It's important to separate the nostalgia for positive experiences at Hugo House from the nostalgia for the building at 1634 11th Avenue. The nostalgia for the positive experiences part is necessary and good—it's the lifeblood of any organization. Those stories and memories guide institutions into the future by reminding them what's worked and not worked in the past. But the nostalgia for the building, the houseyness of it, the roughbut-lovable-idea-of-Seattle-ness of it, seems

Hugo House's current old-timev exterior makes it easy to forget that the organization was founded on first-wave tech money. In the late 1990s, Linda Breneman (then Linda Jaech, partner of Jeremy Jaech, founding member of Aldus Software, which became Adobe) bought the place on 11th and let Hugo House run programs there without paying rent. The current ownership team-Hugo Properties LLC, which is composed of Breneman and Linda and Ted Johnson—is now

making it possible for Hugo House to own a permanent space in the new building. According to Joel Aslanian, a principal at the investment firm that's managing the development, upon completion of construction, Hugo Properties will "sell" Hugo House its new facility, which will be in the same spot at 1634 11th Avenue, "for a significant discount to cost (not to mention value)." So Hugo House will own its new facility thanks to sympathetic tech people (who, in Breneman's case at least, also happen to be literary people) with tons of money.

Moreover, the organization was named after a poet who never stepped foot in the house itself, a guy whose life's work involved reimagining ghost towns gutted out by the decline of the Pacific Northwest's naturalresources economy. You should hear what the people of Dixon, Montana, have to say about the way Richard Hugo characterized their town in his poem "The Only Bar in Dixon." (They didn't like it.)

But the lesson here isn't that there's not much of a "there" there at the house on 11th Avenue (though really there's not much), or that nothing's sacred, or that people in small towns don't appreciate poetry, or that you shouldn't name buildings after people. Hugo, after all, was a scrappy kid from White Center with mean, alcoholic grandparents, and the better part of his spirit, his poetry, embodies HH's mission in a meaningful way. The lesson is that the world is more complex than the amber world of nostalgia, and that arts organizations such as Hugo House that champion necessary but bizarrely culturally maligned art forms are smart to appeal to and work with the wealthy tech people with philanthropic bents.

Moreover, the new building is going to be better for the people who spend the most time at Hugo House—the workers and the students—than the current house is. "I've walked into a classroom and seen people with coats on," said Tree Swenson, executive director of the organization. She claims Hugo House has tried to fix the heat multiple times, but the building is old and uninsulated, so nothing really worked. "The air conditioning doesn't do its job, either,"

I asked Kristen Steenbeeke, marketing director for Hugo House, if she'd ever struggled with the building before. "One time it took six of us to open a window," she said, before adding, "and I have one working outlet in my office."

Compared with their corporate corollaries, people who work for nonprofits are already taking a pay cut for the sake of making a difference in the world. They don't need the added, nearly cartoonish injury of having to wear a coat in their office. The same goes for the students who attend classes there. Not shivering or sweating profusely in a classroom tends to help lessons stick.

If you have any nostalgia for the building that houses Hugo House, try to transfer those feelings into gratitude for the angel investors who want to live in a city that's enriched by literary arts.

The move to the Frye will do some good to that end. Since Hugo House will, for the time being, host readings in the Frye's crisper digs, the interim situation aesthetically bridges the gap between Hugo House in the old funeral home and Hugo House in the fancy new six-story, mixed-use building to which it will return by 2018, assuming all goes well. And, unlike the soon-to-be-bulldozed house, this new building will embody what Hugo House has been for the last few years: a sophisticated literary organization designed to support Seattle's writing community. If nothing else, it will at least contain a sufficient number of



As a Former Jehovah's Witness, I Seethed with Jealousy at The Book of Mormon

They Could Never Make a Musical This Good About the Religion I Was Raised Under

BY RICH SMITH

The Book of Mormon

Paramount Theatre

Through Jan 10

hen I was a boy, every Saturday at 9 a.m., I'd put on my little J.C. Penny suit, make sure my little briefcase was stuffed with the latest Watchtower and Awake! magazines, practice my little speech

("Hi, we're just walking around the neighborhood today talking about the Bible—have ya heard of it? Ha-ha"), and then head to the Kingdom Hall with

my mom and sisters. After a brief meeting at the hall, we'd team up with another family and drive out to some neighborhood in town. We called these neighborhoods "territories." We'd split into family groups, take opposite

sides of the street, and start the process of adding sheep to Jehovah's flock.

On our walks around the territories, sometimes we'd pass a pair of youthful men wearing buttonup shirts and slacks. Mormons. On our turf. The Jehovah's Witnesses might be just your average American-made fundamentalist Christian sect, but we weren't Mormons. When we would run into them out in the field, there was a general sense of competition.

While I watched The Book of Mormon, playing now at the Paramount Theatre, I couldn't help but try to imagine a parallel musical about Jehovah's Witnesses. But there's just no way in which it would ever work, and the reasons WHY it wouldn't work highlight

the greatness of Trey Parker, Matt Stone, and Robert Lopez's smash hit.

JWs go into field service for life, and women aren't excluded from service. (In fact, in my memory, women led much of the proselytizing strategy at the Kingdom Hall.) There's no codified "study abroad" element to our evangelism. But the Mormons have this colonial, patriarchal, self-serving core that makes perfect fodder for parody. JWs are just kinda thrifty and scrappy opportunists by comparison.

And there is no aesthetic consistency among Jehovah's Witnesses. The Mormons always wear those short-sleeved shirts and black name tags, and their temples have those golden horn players up top, and that's not even mentioning Mormons' flashy matrimonial rituals that involve secret handshakes. This is what happens when a religion has property and lots of money, and why The Book of Mormon could so brilliantly use the winking pomp of musicals to reveal the Mormon's penchant for the fabulous, which

the religion hides in plain sight. The only aesthetic consistency among JWs might be floral-print dresses and ill-fitting suits.

Alas, a JW musical would suck. But should you scrum up in front of the Paramount two

hours before the show for a chance to win \$25 tickets in the lottery? Yeah, are you kidding me? It's the best. The pacing is swift and the performances

are stellar, seemingly effortless despite how physically demanding they are. In some ways, the musical is a cartoon of musicals, and in order to pull that off, the actors have to do what cartoons do but with the limita-



THE BOOK OF MORMON Goddamn good.

tions of lungs and muscles. Plus, Alexandra Ncube, who plays Nabulungi, the only person you're supposed to like in the whole play, is... lemme consult my notes here, oh ves. I seem to have written down VERY GOOD AT SINGING. Not to mention the play is a study in the beauty of the male form in conserva-

This musical suggests that the power of storytelling is a universal and ultimately good thing in that it fossilizes wisdom that can help us overcome terrible circumstances. It doesn't really matter what kind of razzledazzle you add on top of that—blond-haired Jesus, sex frogs, a cricket with a top hat, or jubilant Ewoks. But more than that, The Book of Mormon opens up complicated questions about the relationship between art and religion, ones that those didactic, libertarian-leaning conclusions to South Park never really could. ■

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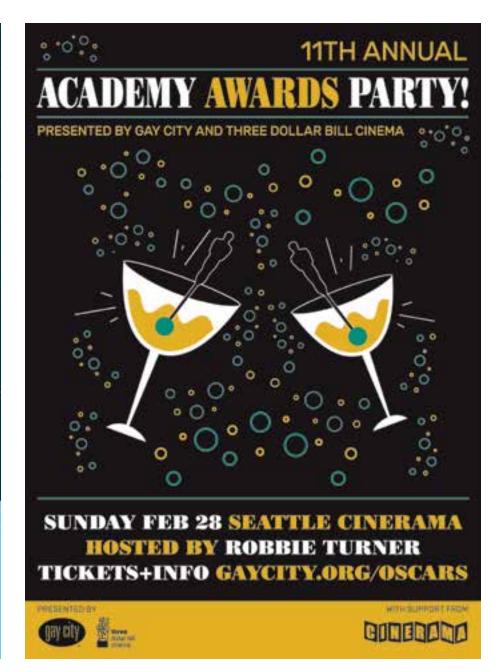
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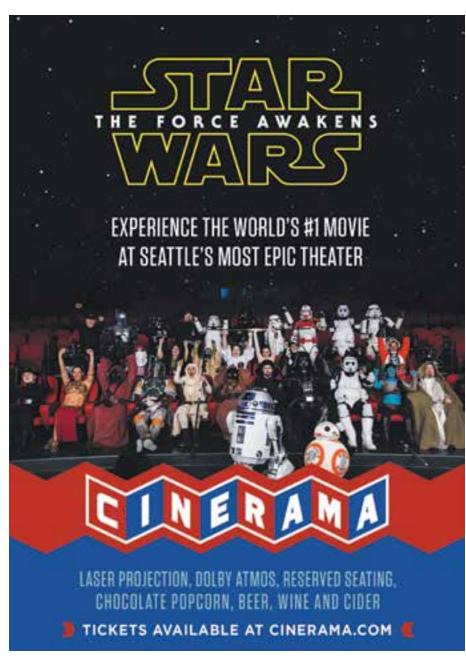
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GHOSTBUSTERS Huh. Something seems... different.

The Movies to Look Forward to in 2016

BY ERIK HENRIKSEN

o 2015 was a pretty good year for movo 2010 was a premy good, our ies! Sure, in terms of both smarts and spectacle, George Miller's Mad Max: Fury Road drove right over just about everything else. But even when Imperator Furiosa wasn't tearing across screens, there were plenty of other movies that demanded to be seen, considered, and argued over—from Sicario to It Follows to Room, from Magic Mike XXL to Creed to $The\ Night\ Before$, from $Ex\ Machina$ to Tangerine to Spotlight to Carol.

Those highlights aside, 2015 was still, depressingly, dominated by male directors and, depressingly, 2016 looks to be much the same, with women writers and directors finding far more work in television. (If you're looking for new stuff from Lynn Shelton, Lisa Cholodenko, Sofia Coppola, Reed Morano, Kathryn Bigelow, Jane Campion, Michelle MacLaren, Lena Dunham, or Nicole Holofcener, look to Netflix and HBO; if you're wondering why Obvious Child's Gillian Robespierre doesn't have a billion movies lined up, ioin the club.) But even with Hollywood's long-standing misogyny—and even when, apparently, we've all done something terribleas a species to deserve the karmic retribution of the forthcoming The Angry Birds Movie there's still a ton of stuff coming out in 2016 that's worth getting excited about. Or curious about. Or both.

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi-Michael Bay takes on Benghazi! Absolutely nothing could go wrong with this scenario.

 ${\it Anomalisa}$ — ${\it Adaptation}$ and ${\it Being John}$ Malkovich writer Charlie Kaufman's last film was waaay back in 2008. He's back with the stop-motion animated Anomalisa, which boasts the most Kaufman-esque logline ever: "A man crippled by the mundanity of his life experiences something out of the ordinary."

Bad Santa 2—Hey, look, a sequel nobody

Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice and Captain America: Civil War and Doctor Strange and Suicide Squad and X-Men: Apocalypse and Deadpool and probably 40 other comic-book movies I'm forgetting-Zack Snyder's Man of Steel-quel tries to up the appeal by dragging in Wonder Woman and Batman. The third Captain America flick pits Cap against Iron Man. Benedict Cumberbatch says "fuck it" and takes another paycheck to play another creepy genius. A bunch of DC Comics villains team up. Etc. If we haven't hit comic book movie overload by now, we never will. Welcome to your new

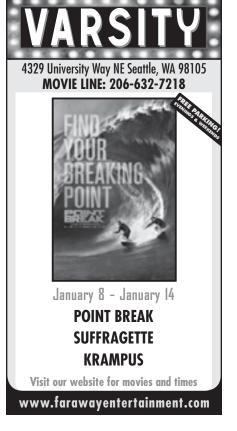
The BFG—All I remember about reading Roald Dahl's book as a kid was that the big friendly giant talks about farting; seeing Steven Spielberg realize this on-screen, with all the subtle grace he managed in Bridge of Spies, will surely be one of 2016's cinematic highlights.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny—Debuting simultaneously in theaters and on Netflix, this sequel loses director Ang Lee and star Chow Yun-Fat-hut. it still features Michelle Yeoh, and it's directed by Crouching Tiger's action master, Yuen Woo-Ping.

Everybody Wants Some—Richard Linklater's follow-up to Boyhood looks quite a bit like Dazed and Confused, which is excellent news for anybody else who wore out their VHS of Dazed and Confused.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them-A Harry Potter prequel! Prequels are always great.











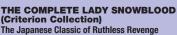


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Ghostbusters—A questionable remake with an unquestionable cast: Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, and Leslie Jones (plus Chris Hemsworth as their secretary).

Green Room—The latest from Blue Ruin's Jeremy Saulnier was shot in Portland, stars Patrick Stewart (as a pissed-off white supremacist, no less), and, according to early screening reports, is excellent and terrifying in equal measure.

Hail, Caesar!—New Coen brothers! LET THENATIONAL CELEBRATION BEGIN.

High-Rise and Free Fire—Holy shit, 2016 might give us two movies from Ben Wheatley, the guy behind Kill List and Sightseers. High-Rise, based on J.G. Ballard's book, is set in a building where things go very, very wrong. Free Fire looks to be an all-out action flick, with Cillian Murphy and Brie Larson. Both will be... intense.

Independence Day: Resurgence—See Bad Santa 2, above.

The Intervention—Director Clea DuVall's debut feature—in which a couple realizes their friends have staged an intervention about their marriage—features a fantastic cast: Melanie Lynskey, Alia Shawkat, Cobie Smulders, and Natasha Lyonne.

Jack Reacher: Never Go Back—Christopher McQuarrie's Jack Reacher was criminally underrated in 2012—a clever, tough, funny adaptation of one of Lee Child's 20,000 Jack Reacher novels. Presumably, this time Reacher will once again outsmart everybody and then beat the crap out of everybody else.

John Wick 2—"The continuing adventures of former hit man John Wick" might not be the most telling sentence, but given that John Wick was one of the best action films in years, it's a very beautiful sentence.

Julieta—New Pedro Almodóvar. Enough

Keanu—A comedy starring Key and Peele but—appallingly, shockingly, inexplicably not Keanu Reeves. Which is okay because $look\ up\ like\ a\ single\ inch.$ No, not at Julieta.One more. See? All is right with the world.

Knight of Cups—New Terrence Malick. Enough said.

The Little Prince—The world's most obnoxious book gets turned into another goddamned movie. This one features James Franco, and THAT IS ALL I CAN WRITE ABOUT THIS MOVIE WITHOUT BEING DRIVEN INSANE BY ANNOYANCE

The Magnificent Seven—It's been 55 years since John Sturges's western (and 61 years since Akira Kurosawa's samurai classic), which I guess means no one can get too mad about a remake. This one stars Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Peter Sarsgaard, and Ethan Hawke.

Midnight Special—Mud and Take Shelter's Jeff Nichols riffs on the 1980s films of John Carpenter. One for Midnight Special, please!

The Nice Guys—Shane Black's last film was Iron Man 3—but before that, he was the guy who wrote Lethal Weapon, The Last Boy Scout, The Long Kiss Goodnight, and 2005's fucking perfect noir comedy Kiss Kiss Bang Bang. The fact that he describes The Nice Guys-starring Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe—as a spiritual sequel to Kiss Kiss is some of the best film news of the year.

Passengers—Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt are in a sci-fi romance, and it is going to make \$800 billion.

Planetarium—Writer/director Rebecca Zlotowski's third feature (following Belle épine and Grand Central) features Natalie Portman in a story about "sisters who are believed to possess the supernatural ability to connect with ghosts." This... will probably be better than Ghost busters.

The Revenant—Alejandro González Iñárritu's survival/revenge flick in which Leonardo DiCaprio gets brutally tortured for three

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story—Yeah, we justgot a star war. And we'll get another star war in 2016. And another one the year after that, and another one the year after that, every year, until eternity, until all we have is Star Wars, until everything is Star Wars, until StarWars is all that we are and all that we do, until you and I and our children and our children's children do nothing but wait in line for Star Warses, all of us dead-eved and slack-jawed. forgetting that we once had names, that we once had lives and hopes and drea-

Sausage Party—This animated tale of "one sausage's quest to discover the truth about his existence" features the voices of Seth Rogen (as "Frank, a sausage"), Jonah Hill (as "Carl, a sausage"), Michael Cera (as "Barry, a sausage"), Salma Hayek (as "Teresa Taco, a taco"), Kristen Wiig (as "a hot-dog bun"), and Edward Norton ("as Sammy Bagel Jr., a bagel"). Cinema is a beautiful and versatile art form.

Silence—The Wolf of Wall Street was Martin Scorsese's best film in decades; his follow-up stars Liam Neeson, Adam Driver, and Andrew Garfield, and tracks Jesuit priests to Japan. "Violence and persecution" ensue. Scorsese's been wanting to make this movie for almost a decade; chances are it'll be worth the wait.

Snowden—Oliver Stone takes on Edward Snowden! Absolutely nothing could go wrong with this scenario.

Star Trek Beyond—Fast & Furious director Justin Lin takes on $Star\ Trek$ —with a script cowritten by Simon Pegg, a bad guy played by Idris Elba, and what looks like a return to the original series' blend of bright allegory and goofball adventure.

Story of Your Life-Sicario and Prisoners' Denis Villeneuve makes a sci-fi with Amy Adams. (After this, he's doing a Blade Runner sequel—which would be a horrifying threat from anyone who wasn't the guy who made Sicario and Prisoners.)

Tallulah—Orange Is the New Black writer and producer Sian Heder snags Ellen Page and Allison Janney for her debut feature.

Warcraft—A video-game movie that might actually not be a giant piece of shit, thanks to Moon and Source Code director Duncan

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot—Based on Kim Barker's book The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan, this film features Tina Fey as Barker, a reporter embedded with troops in the Middle East. And she hangs out with Margot Robbie! I wish there were more movies like this on this list. instead of...

Zoolander 2—See Bad Santa 2, above. ■



Why Columbia City **Needs Salted Sea**

It's a Great Seafood Restaurant That Also Fills a Void in the Neighborhood

BY ANGELA GARBES

Salted Sea

4915 Rainier Ave S.

858-6328

t's impossible for me to write about Salted Sea, the new seafood restaurant in Columbia City, without first talking about the business that it replaced, Angie's Tavern. Angie's was my favorite dive bar in town, a welcoming and comfortable place where I could reliably drink cheap beer (pitchers of Bud for \$5.50) and cheap booze, and scarf down the occasional bowl of instant ramen with friends, many of whom have

long since moved away. The music was good and loud and, as far as I could tell, the volume level was never so high as when there was a basketball or football game on.

But Angie's also had its share of trouble, and it closed in 2011 after 26 years when the state liquor board refused to renew its license. Eventually, the single-story building that housed Angie's, built in 1905, was torn down and replaced by a mixed-use structure, where Salted Sea now operates on the first floor.

Angie's was a mostly black bar, in what

was at the time a mostly black neighborhood. But the identity of Columbia City has shifted since then. While the neighborhood has gotten wealthier and whiter, it's still an affordable place for immigrant-owned businesses. These days, there are less late-night bars like Angie's, but there are African restaurants serving Ethiopian, Senegalese, and Kenyan cuisine. You can also get Thai and Japanese food. And

> now you can have terrific (and sustainably harvested) seafood confidently imbued with a mix of flavors from China, Vietnam, and the Philippines—at Salted Sea.

A good way to start a meal is with a few freshly shucked local oysters from the raw bar. Normally I don't want anything but a squeeze of lemon on my oysters, but I appreciated the distinct sauces chef Allyss Taylor has paired with the different varieties on offer, which add complementary flavors without overwhelming the delicate sea creatures.

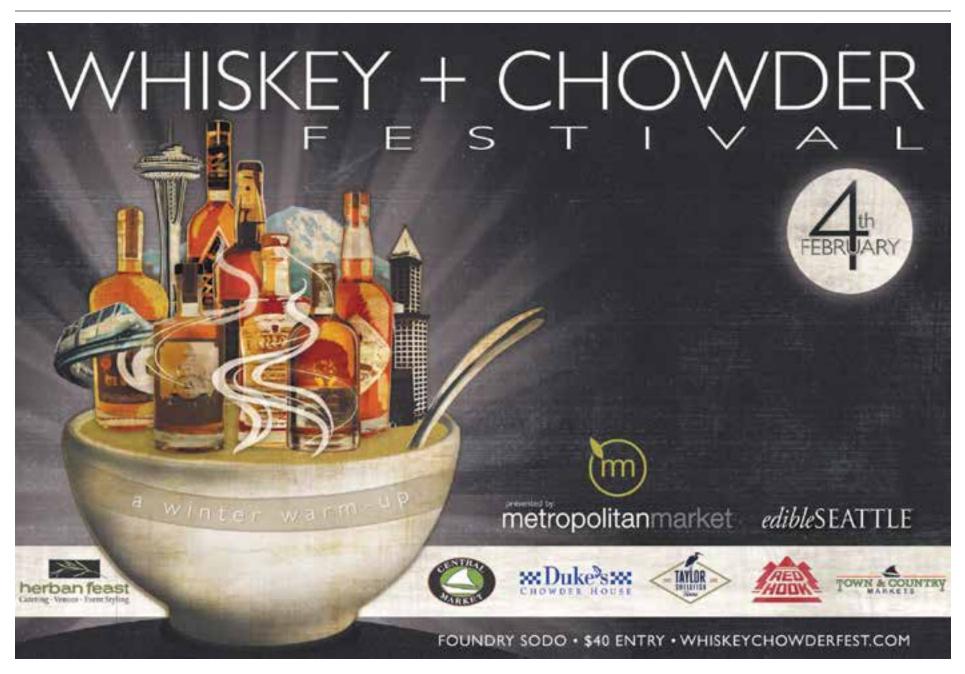


 $\textbf{FRESH OYSTERS} \ They \ get \ a \ new \ depth \ of \ flavor \ when \ paired \ with \ distinct \ sauces \ by$ chef Alluss Taulor.

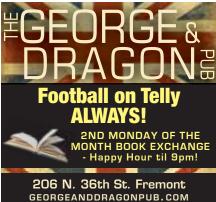
A cilantro-lime mignonette gave a boost of brightness to mild Minter Sweet Select oysters, while a charred jalapeño mignonette imbued smoke and mild heat to creamy Sea Cows. But it was an unexpected and earthy mushroom-Worcestershire sauce dressed on deep-cupped, meaty Shigokus that brought an entirely new depth of flavor to the oysters.

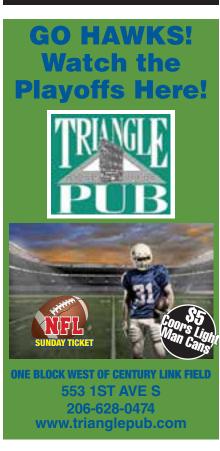
A special entrée of grilled octopus (\$14) was also a welcome surprise. Two tentacles were braised first, finished on the grill, and then draped atop stewed green mung beans—homely legumes that, while a staple of many Asian diets, rarely make it onto menus in America. They were earthy, sweet, soft, and creamy, with just the right amount of firmness. Small wedges of fresh lime brought sharpness.

An entrée of pan-seared black cod felt very small for the price (\$23). Instead of getting a crisp sear in a hot pan, the fish, already oily by nature, soaked up the cooking oil. It was served with lovely accompaniments—confit chanterelle mushrooms, made silken after a long, slow bath in oil, and a deeply savory quenelle of ▶



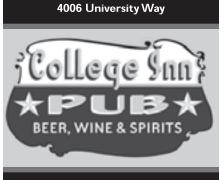








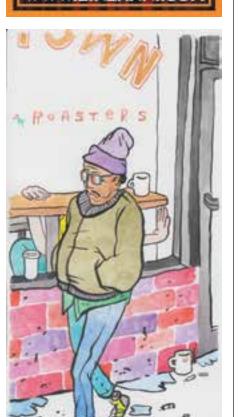




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◀ diced, meaty oyster mushrooms—though my mouth felt unpleasantly awash in fat afterward.

It was a treat to see shrimp toast (\$6), a dish you'll find at every restaurant serving food from Hong Kong and many dim sum joints but nowhere else, on the shared plates menu. Salted Sea's version is rich and wonderful—minced sweet shrimp blended with ginger and pepper and then spread generously on slices of toasted, buttery baguette. A few moments under a broiler gave them a few caramelized brown spots that were especially flavorful.

While the shrimp toast was great, I'd skip the potted shrimp (\$10) and crostini. The buttery shrimp mixture is served cold. complete with an unappetizing thick layer of congealed fat on the bottom, as well as big blobs of the stuff scattered throughout.

The green curry mussels (\$12) were better—plump and moist, and served in a deep bowl of coconut broth. Despite the presence of the coconut, the dish is remarkably light, with bright notes of citrus and cilantro, and just a bit of spicy heat. A generous topping of crispy fried shallots added sweetness and a bit of crunch.

Both the shrimp toast and mussels appear on the restaurant's dinner menu, which is served seven nights a week, and lunch menus, served Monday through Friday.

For lunch, the cod and chips (\$12) are fine but not memorable. More interesting is the fried ovster bánh mì (\$12), which, along with crispy oysters, features house-made

There's a palpable sense of inclusivity herebrown, black, and white people of all ages share meals together.

cha lua-a soft, peppery Vietnamese pork sausage. The creamy pork perfectly complements the oysters, which are lightly fried so you can savor their cool, briny liquid when you bite through the crunchy exterior. The bread-to-filling ratio was a bit off (there were many bites of just baguette), but the whole thing was so tasty that it didn't matter.

Owner Huy Tat, a South Seattle native who also owns the noodle shop Hue Ky Mi Gia in the International District, said he opened Salted Sea because he wanted to give the area the restaurant he felt it was missing: a place where people can enjoy fresh seafood. With Salted Sea, Tat succeeds in delicately balancing the many needs of a diverse, changing neighborhood interested in distinct flavors, high standards of sourcing, and approachable food.

Approachability is Tat and Taylor's biggest victory. So many people could walk into Salted Sea and feel welcome—and based on who I saw during my three visits, they do. There's a palpable sense of inclusivity here-brown, black, and white people of all ages share meals together. I felt truly at home, which made everything-even the less-successful dishes—taste better.

On Sundays, Salted Sea opens its doors at 9:30 a.m., and when there's a Seahawks game, it's screened on the large televisions in the bar (which, by the way, has a nice selection of beers on tap and an even better selection of cocktails and good-quality booze). Along with the usual brunch menu, there are game-day specials of \$1 oysters and garlic chicken wings.

I often wonder where the folks I used to see at Angie's hang out now, where they have gone. Peering through the windows of Salted Sea on a recent Sunday afternoon, I got the feeling that they would be welcome here.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

For the Week of January 6

ARIES (March 21–April 19): John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962. His novel *Of Mice and Men* helped win him the award, but it required extra persistence. When he'd almost finished the manuscript, he went out on a date with his wife. While they were gone, his puppy Toby ripped his precious pages into confetti. As mad as he was, he didn't punish the dog but got busy on a rewrite Later he considered the possibility that Toby had served as a helpful literary critic. The new edition of *Of Mice and Men* was Steinbeck's breakout book. I'm guessing that in recent months, you have received comparable assistance, Aries—although you may not realize it was assistance until later this year.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Remember back to what your life was like during the first nine months of 2004. I suspect that you fell just short of fulfilling a dream. It's possible you were too young to have the power you needed. Or maybe you were working on a project that turned out to be pretty good but not great. Maybe you were pushing to create a new life for yourself but weren't wise enough to make a complete breakthrough. Almost 12 years later, you have returned to a similar phase in your long-term cycle. You are better equipped to do what you couldn't quite do before: create the masterpiece, finish the job, rise to the next level.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): To become a skillful singer, you must learn to regulate your breath. You've got to take in more oxygen than usual for extended periods, and do it in ways that facilitate rather than interfere with the sounds coming out of your mouth Later, you have to get beyond your self-conscious discipline so you can reach a point where the proper breathing happens easily and gracefully. Although you may not be working to become a singer in 2016, Gemini, I think you will have comparable challenges: (1) to make conscious an activity that has been unconscious, (2) to refine and cultivate that activity, (3) to allow your consciously crafted approach to become unself-conscious again

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Ancient humans didn't "invent" fire, but rather learned about it from nature and then figured out how to produce it as needed. Ropes had a similar origin. Our ancestors employed long vines made of tough fiber as primitive ropes, and they eventually got the idea to braid and knot the vines together for greater strength. This technology was used to hunt, climb, pull, fasten, and carry. It was essential to the development of civilization. I predict that 2016 will bring you opportunities that have metaphorical resemblances to the early rope. Your task will be to develop and embellish on what nature provides.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22): British author Anthony Trollope (1815–1882) had a day job with the postal service until he was in his 50s. For years, he awoke every morning at 5:30 and churned out 2,500 words before heading to work. His goal was to write two or three novels a year, a pace he came close to achieving. "A small daily task, if it really be daily," he wrote in his autobiography, "will beat the labors of a spasmodic Hercules." I recommend that you borrow from his strategy in 2016, Leo. Be regular and disciplined and diligent as you practice the art of gradual, incremental success.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22): Umbrellas shelter us from the rain, saving us from the discomfort of getting soaked and the embarrassment of bad hair. They also protect us from the blinding light and sweltering heat of the sun. I'm very much in favor of these practical perks. But when umbrellas appear in your nightly dreams, they may have a less positive meaning. They can indicate an inclination to shield yourself from natural forces or to avoid direct contact with primal sensuality
I hope you won't do much of that in 2016. In my opinion, you need a lot of face-to-face encounters with life in its raw state. Symbolically speaking, this should be a non-umbrella year.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22): Around the world, an average of 26 languages go extinct every year. But it increasingly appears that Welsh will not be one of them. It has enjoyed a revival in the past few decades. In Wales, it's taught in many schools, appears on road signs, and is used in some mobile phones and computers. Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life, Libra? A tradition that can be revitalized and should be preserved? A part of your heritage that may be useful to your future? A neglected aspect of your birthright that deserves to be reclaimed? Make it happen in 2016.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Fourteenth-century author Geoffrey Chaucer produced a collection of stories known as The Canterburn Tales. It became a seminal text of English literature even though he never finished it. The most influential book ever written by theologian Thomas Aquinas was a work he gave up on before it was completed. The artist Michelangelo never found the time to put the final touches on numerous sculptures and paintings. Why am I bringing this theme to your attention? Because 2016 will be an excellent time to wrap up long-term projects you've been working on—and also to be at peace with abandoning those you can't.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): A bottle of Chateau Cheval Bland wine from 1947 sold for \$304,000. The mystique about aged wine provokes crazy behavior like that. But here's a more mundane fact: Most wine deteriorates with age and should be sold within a few years of being bottled. I'm thinking about these things as I meditate on your long-term future, Sagittarius. My guess is that your current labor of love will reach full maturity in the next 18 to 20 months. This will be a time to bring all your concentration and ingenuity to bear naking it as good as it can be

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): In her poem "Tree," California poet Jane Hirshfield speaks of a young redwood tree that's positioned next to a house. Watch out! It grows fast—as much as three feet per year. "Already the first branch-tips brush at the window," Hirshfield writes. "Softly, calmly, immensity taps at your life." I suspect this will be an apt metaphor for you in 2016. The expansion and proliferation you have witnessed these past few months are likely to intensify That's mostly good but may also require adjustments. How will you respond as immensity taps at your life?

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Centuries ago, lettuce was a bitter, prickly weed that no one ate. But ancient Egyptians guessed its potential and used selective breeding to gradually convert it into a satisfy food. I see 2016 as a time when you could have a comparable success. Look around at your life and identify weed-like things that could, through your transformative magic, be turned into valuable assets. The process may take longer than a year, but you can set in nstoppable momentum that will ensure success

PISCES (Feb 19–March 20): Imagine that a beloved elder has been writing down your life story in the form of a fairy tale. Your adventures aren't rendered literally, but rather through dreamlike scenes that have symbolic resonance. With this as our template, I'll predict a key plot development of 2016: You will grow increasingly curious about a "forbidden" door—a door you have always believed should not be opened. Your inquisitiveness will reach such intensity that you will consider locating the key for that door. If it's not available, you may even think about breaking down the door.



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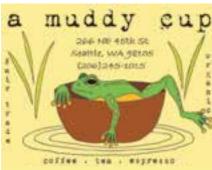
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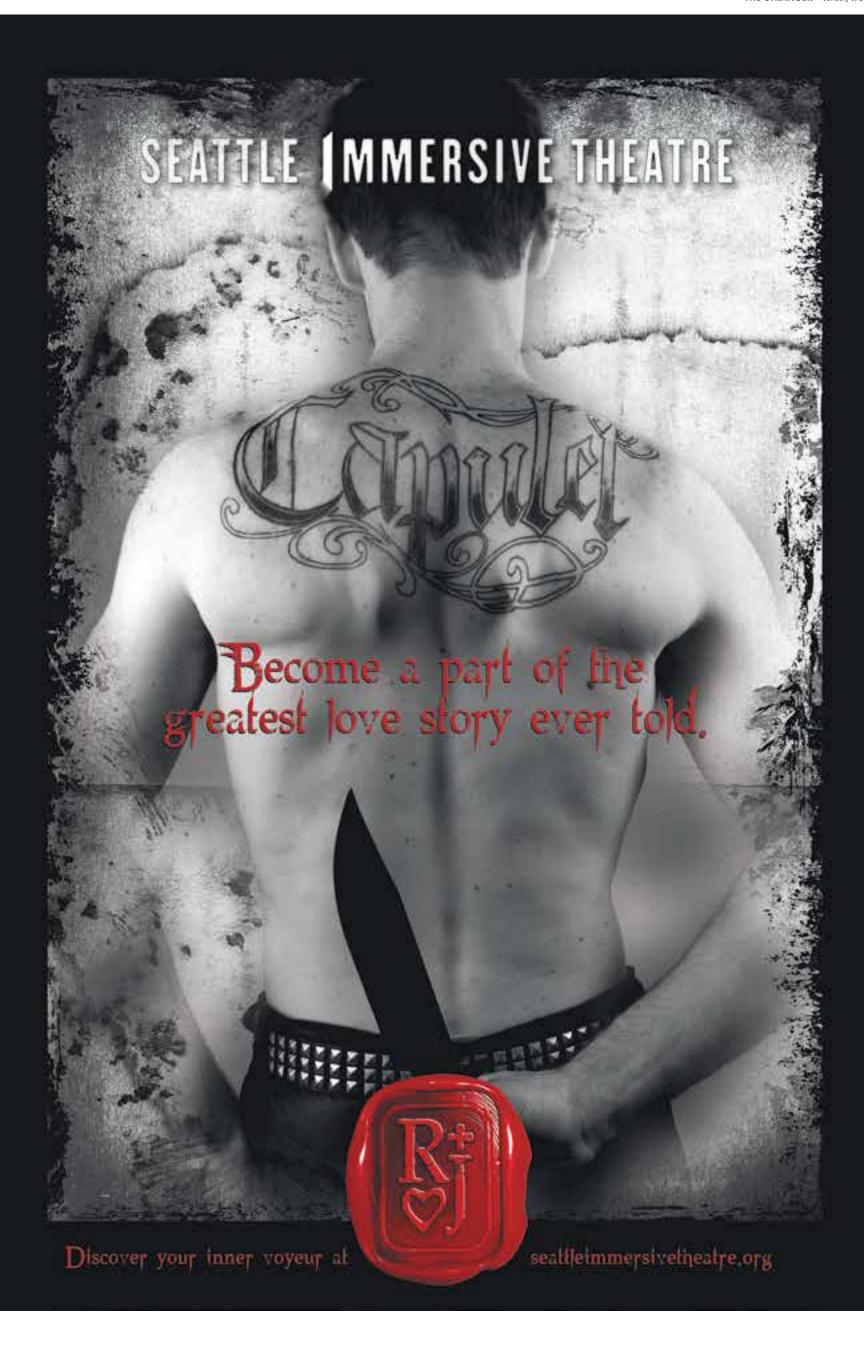
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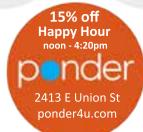
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